森田まさのり

反省する事ばかりです。デビュー16年目にして、改めてプロの厳しさを思い知りました。連載中、度々休んだのは体調不良が原因です。いやしくも読者に夢を与える仕事をしている以上、肉体的にも精神的にも若く健全であり続けなければなりません。苦しくてもがんばっている他の作家さん達に対して、本当に恥ずかしい思いです。読者の皆さまには、お詫びの気持ちと、それでも応援していただいた事への感謝の気持ちでいっぱいです。すみませんでした。そして、ありがとうございました。次回作はがんばります。

●週刊少年ジャンプ・H15年19号、20号、合併号〜26号、36号〜39号掲載分収録

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LOVE
J・C

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ジャンプ・コミックス

目黒川戦8回表、3点を追うニコガクの攻撃は、またとない好打順。野球部の運命を背負い打席に立った満身創痍の安仁屋だが…!? 監督・川藤不在の中、悪ガキ集団の夢を懸けた怒濤の一戦を待っていた衝撃の終幕とは!?

ROOKIES

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森田まさのり

STUDIO Kitman SINCE・1980

24 草茂みベースボールの道白し

ROOKIES ルーキーズ

JUMP COMICS

ROOKIES ルーキーズ

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草茂(くさしげ)みベースボールの道白(みちしろ)し

STUDIO Kit man SINCE・1989

Vol.225 It'll Be Okay

HIYAMA HIT A WEAK GROUNDER TOWARDS SECOND BASE.

FUCK!

FUCK-ING... NOT AGAIN!!

YOU CAN MAKE IT!

FORGET IT, JUST RUN!!

AHAHA! HE WASN'T EVEN CLOSE TO MAKING IT!

HIYAMA!

BATTER OUT! THAT MAKES THREE OUTS TO END THE THREAT!

WAS THAT REALLY WORTH SLIDING FOR!?

SO THAT'S THE HOT-BLOODED NIKOGAKU BASEBALL WE'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT!? HAHAHA!

1'0"

GAHH HH!!

OUT!!

EVERYTHING THEY'VE DONE SEEMS TO SUPPORT THIS THESIS...

THERE'S NO DOUBT THEY DIDN'T WANT TO START THE NEXT INNING WITH HIM AT BAT, SEEING HIS CURRENT PHYSICAL CONDITION... THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO FINISH THE INNING WITH HIM BATTING AND THEN MOUNT ANOTHER RUN IN THE NEXT INNING.

NIKOGAKU ABSOLUTELY WANTED TO HAVE ANIYA BAT THIS INNING!

?

ANIYA WASN'T UP NEXT,

BUT JUST BY JUDGING HIYAMA'S DESPERATE RUN...

FOR THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT!

THEY WANT TO SAVE ANIYA

IT LOOKS LIKE NIKOGAKU'S STRATEGY IS CLEAR.

HEY, THAT PART'S CLOSED!

Ptu!

JUST JUMP OVER IT!

YEAH.

HUH? THAT ANIYA GUY IS PLAYIN' FIRST BASE?

AH, THAT FUCKER PLAYING SHORTSTOP... HE'S THE ONE WHO HIT ME FROM BEHIND!

GYAHAHA! MAYBE I BROKE A BONE OR SOMETHIN'!

FUCK YEAH... YOU THINK HE'D BE ABLE TO PITCH AFTER THE ASS KICKING YOU GAVE HIM!?

STRIIIIIIKE! BATTER OOOOOUT!

SINCE THE FOURTH INNING, AKABOSHI SEEMS TO HAVE RETURNED TO HIS USUAL RHYTHM...

YO! HOW'S ABOUT WE HIT UP THE ARCADE?

TSK!

GO ON WITHOUT ME.

NO SHIT?

I HEARD EVERYONE FROM SCHOOL WENT TO CHEER THEM ON.

DIDN'T THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE A BAN ON SUPPORTING THEM?

EVEN THE TEACHS.

YA AIN'T GOT SHIT ELSE TO DO BEFORE THIS AFTERNOON'S PRACTICE, KAMISAKA?

THAT'S TWO BATTERS IN A ROW NOW!

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER VACATION...

WATCHING THEIR SHITTY GAME AT PLACE LIKE THIS IS BORING, YO.

WAAAH

THEY'RE THROWING THINGS ON THE FIELD.

IT SEEMS THAT SOME FANS ENTERED THE CLOSED OFF STANDS... WHAT'S GOING ON?

WELL, I DON'T MIND GOING IF WE'RE JUST GONNA STIR SHIT UP!

GYAHAHA HAHAHA!

IT LOOKS LIKE THE GAME IS BEING HALTED.

WHAT'S THIS!? THE MATCH IS BEING INTER-RUPTED?

HUH?

WAHAHA!!

HEY! GET DOWN FROM THERE!!

HAHAHA! FUCKIN' LOSERS!

THOSE GUYS AGAIN...

YOU NIKOGAKU ASSHOLES AIN'T GOT THE RIGHT TO PLAY BASEBALL!

HUH... YEAH, MIGHT BE.

SHIT, THEY ALREADY BEAT US TO THE PUNCH!

HEY, HOLD ON A SEC... AIN'T THEY THE ONES THAT FOUGHT THE BASEBALL TEAM YESTERDAY?

WHO THE HELL ARE THOSE GUYS?

SECURITY IS TAKING THEM AWAY.

.....

IF KAWATO WAS THERE, HE WOULDA BEEN THE FIRST ONE IN THE STANDS TAKING CARE OF 'EM.

HAHAHA...

IT'S A HUGE MISTAKE TO PUT A MEGUROGAWA RUNNER ON BASE RIGHT BEFORE THE NEXT BATTER...

DID THAT BRIEF BREAK MESS UP AKABOSHI'S RHYTHM?

BALL!

CATCHER, KONO-KUN.

FOURTH BATTER, CATCHER, KONO-KUN.

THAT'S A WALK!

BALL FOUR!!

KONO'S WALKING UP TO THE PLATE...

THE SCORE IS 4-1 FOR MEGURO-GAWA.

HE HAS TWO HITS, BOTH HOMERUNS, AND THREE RUNS BATTED IN TODAY...

IT'S THE BOTTOM OF THE FIFTH WITH A RUNNER ON FIRST AND TWO OUTS... WILL KONO BE ABLE TO PUT THIS GAME OUT OF REACH FOR NIKOGAKU?

.....

YOU CAN ONLY PUT FULL STRENGTH IN THE BALL WHEN UP AGAINST KONO...

BUT...

AND HE CAN'T THROW A FULL STRENGTH PITCH UNLESS IT'S THE DECISIVE THROW.

ANIYA'S ALLOWED TO USE A MAXIMUM OF 25 PITCHES...

THIS IS WHERE YOU HAVE TO ENDURE,

NO! WE CAN'T CHANGE PITCHERS!!

TOSHIRA KII

AKABOSHI!!

BELIEVE IN YOUR FRIENDS ON DEFENSE!

DON'T WORRY, WE'RE ALL BEHIND YA.

M

11

Ft

KONO HIT THE BALL!!

THE SECOND BASEMAN MADE CONTACT WITH THE BALL!!

オオオ…!!

IMAOKA STOPPED THE BALL'S PROGRESS ONLY TO HAVE IT REBOUND OFF HIS GLOVE INTO THE AIR!

OH!? AND HIYAMA CATCHES IT!!

YEAAA AAHH!!

WHAT A GREAT DEFENSIVE PLAY BY HIYAMA!!

Y... YES!!

!

NIKOGAKU MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THAT STICKY SITUATION!

THAT WAS THE THIRD OUT.

AFTER THE BOTTOM OF THE FIFTH, THE SCORE REMAINS 4-1.

EVEN THOUGH WE ALL KNEW YOU BASELESSLY SAID THAT, IT STILL MADE US FEEL SAFE...

IT'LL BE OKAY... THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS SAID TO US, KAWATO-SENSEI!!

IT'LL BE OKAY...

I BELIEVE WE COULD REALLY DO SOMETHING SPECIAL HERE.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT TODAY!! I REALLY BELIEVE... IT'LL BE OKAY...

WE'LL WORK OURSELVES TO DEATH TO REACH IT... TOGETHER!

THE MOMENT FOR ANIYA WILL DEFINITELY COME.

BECAUSE ALL OF US TOGETHER FORM NIKOGAKU!

BUT WE WON'T JUST BE RELYING ON ANIYA...

WE CAN DO IT!

IT'LL BE OKAY...

ANIYA SAID THAT I'M STARTING TO LOOK MORE AND MORE LIKE YOU, SENSEI...

STRIKE!

BATTER OUT!!

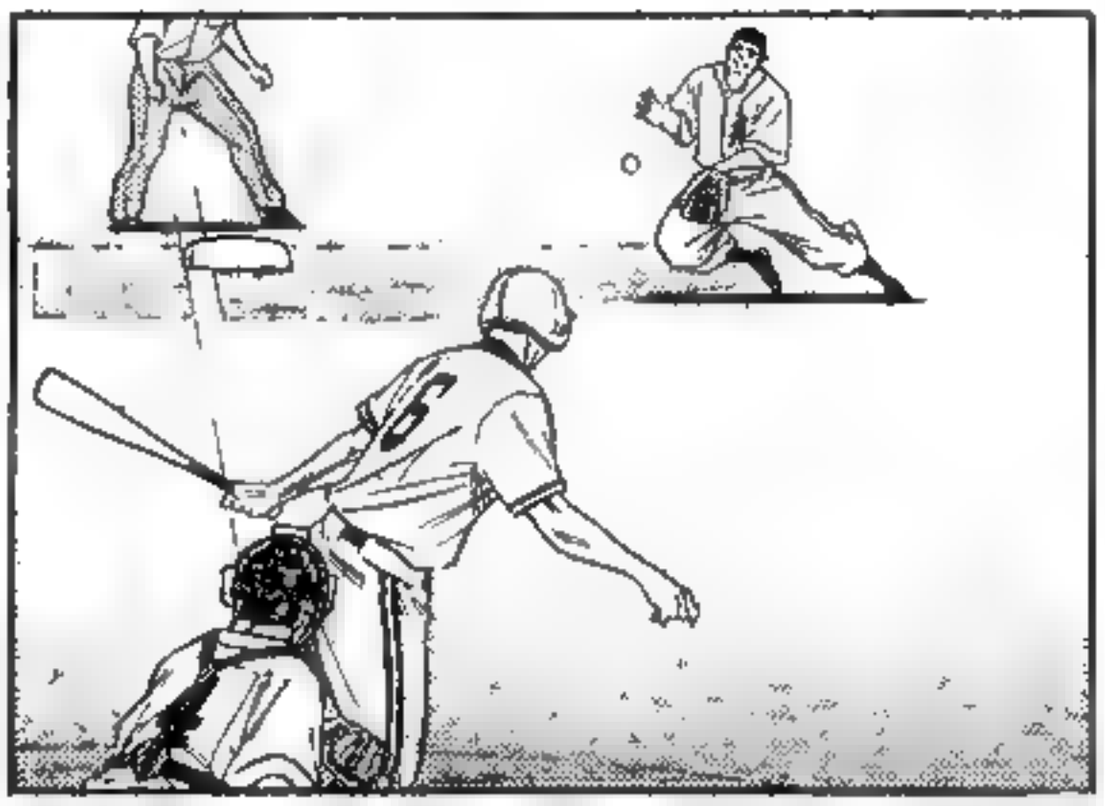
BUT THIS ISN'T THE TIME...

AND ANIYA UNDERSTANDS THAT.

11

I KNOW
THAT'S WHY...

IT'LL BE OKAY!!!



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WE'RE REACHING THE FINAL STAGES OF THE GAME...
NEITHER TEAM HAS SCORED A RUN SINCE THE FOURTH INNING.
IT STARTED WITH AKABOSHI'S EXCELLENT EFFORTS, BUT THE REST OF THE TEAM DEFENDED FABULOUSLY AS WELL.

ALRIGHT, GUYS!! THIS IS THE INNING WHERE WE TURN THINGS AROUND!!

GO NIKOGAKU, GOOOO!!

THE BOTTOM OF THE EIGHTH INNING STARTS WITH FUTAGO-TAMAGAWA HIGHSCHOOL'S OFFENSE.

SIXTH BATTER, RIGHT FIELDER OKADA-KUN.

RIGHT FIELDER OKADA-KUN.

Vol.226

So It Was Me...

1

PLAY BALL!

ANIYA'S GOING TO BAT IN THIS INNING...

BOTTOM OF THE EIGHT...

OKADAAA!! YA GOTTA GET ON BASE!!

YOU NEED TO GET ON BASE!!

THE BOTTOM OF THE EIGHT STARTS WITH NIKOGAKU'S OFFENSE. OKADA IS UP AND HE'S GOT ONE HIT SO FAR TODAY...

ENATSU'S FIRST PITCH!

WE NEED TO GET AS MANY PEOPLE ON BASE FOR ANIYA...

WE NEED TO LOAD THE BASES UP...

ANIYA NEEDS TO HIT IN THIS INNING!

OKADA LETS THE BALL PASS BY...

ヒュ!!!

GOOD JOB, OKADA!! THAT PITCH SUCKED!!

BALL!

LOW BALL!

OKADA WISELY KEEPS HIMSELF FROM SWINGING.

STRI...

.....

ERR, NO...

OKA-DAAAA!

GOOD LUCK, OKADA-KUUUUN!

GET A HIT, OKADA!!

IT'LL BE OKAY.

YOU'RE GIVING US A GREAT SCORING OPPORTU-NITY!

WELL DONE, OKADA. KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE PITCHES.

NOBODY CAN SEE PITCHES LIKE YOU DO.

ZZZZZZ

NIKOGAKU NOW HAS A RUNNER ON FIRST WITH NO OUTS.

WE CAN DO THIS! WE CAN DO THIS!!

PREPARE EVERY-THING FOR ANIYA!

YEAAAH!! THAT'S THE FIRST RUNNER ON!

YEAH!

BALL!

NOW'S THE TIME.

OKAY.

OKADA WAS WALKED!

BALL FOUR!

FINALLY!!

OHHH...

SUB-STITUTE RUNNER.

TIME OUT!

SEKIKAWA!

!

NO PROB!

HOW'S YOUR LEG?

YES, THAT'S MY INTENT.

IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE AS MANY RUNNERS ON BASE AS POSSIBLE INSTEAD OF TRYING TO STEAL BASES...

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

SEKIKAWA IS BEING CALLED TO REPLACE THE FIRST BASE RUNNER.

SEKI-KAWA!

SEKI-KAWA!

SEKI-KAWA!

IT LOOKS LIKE NIKOGAKU'S GOING FOR IT NOW!!

THIS JUST MIGHT BE THEIR LAST CHANCE.

G... GOT IT!

ALRIGHT, MIKOSHIBA.

NIKOGAKU IS TRYING TO GET AS MANY RUNNERS ON BASE FOR ANIYA'S TURN TO BAT.

MIKOSHIBA, HIYAMA, AND THEN ANIYA!

THEIR NEXT THREE BATTERS ARE

YOU WANNA TRY SOME-THING?
THERE'S SOMETHIN' I WANNA TRY!
HELP ME OUT, YO.

YO, WHAT'S GOING ON, MAN? WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?

SHUT THE FUCK UP AND THROW ME THE BALL!
YOU MIGHT PERMA-FUCK UP YOUR DAMN FINGER!
I HOPE YOU KNOW THAT...
I WANNA TRY!!

WHAT ARE YOU...

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT LOSING...

BUT HOW IN THE HELL AM I ABLE TO HELP US WIN!?

PFFT!

WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...

WITH THIS INJURY OF MINE AT SUCH A CRUCIAL TIME FOR OUR CLUB?

SHIT...

HEY, CATCH!

THE DOCTORS TOLD ME TO GIVE UP ON THIS SUMMER ALREADY.

BUT I KNOW I CAN STILL PLAY!!

WHOA!

OH...

OHHH...

YEAH, I WAS.

A... ARE YOU INSANE!?

WERE YOU FUCKING AIMING FOR ME OR SOME-THING!?

WH... WHAT?

HOWEVER, SEKIKAWA WAS SLOW OUT OF THE GATES!

MIKOSHIBA LAID OUT A PERFECT BUNT

OKAY, LET'S GET A DOUBLE PLAY!

TOWARDS FIRST BASE!

WHA?

NO! THROW IT TO FIRST BASE!!

THE FIRST BASEMAN PICKED UP THE BALL AND THREW IT TO SECOND!

SAFE!!

MY GOODNESS!! SEKIKAWA IS FAST!

BLAZ-INGLY FAST!!

HUH!?

BOTH RUNNERS ARE SAFE!

SHIT!!

THAT WAS INCRE-DIBLE!!

SAAAA AAAFE!

WAS THIS NIKOGAKU'S PLAN ALL ALONG!?

HAHA...

HEHE...

YEAH!!

SEKIKAWA'S SPEED IS ON A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL!

WELL DONE!

THAT'S IT...

BOTH OF HIS AT BATS RESULTED IN EASY GROUNDERS TO SECOND BASE.

THE NEXT BATTER IS HIYAMA.

THAT MAKES TWO HITS IN A ROW FOR NIKOGAKU WITH NO OUTS!

NOW'S THE TIME FOR HIYAMA TO SHOW US WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF!

HEHE...

TH... THAT WAS AWESOME, MAN! YOU CAN PLAY NOW!!

BUT...

YOU CAN HIT JUST AS WELL AS BEFORE!

A... AWE-SOME...

AND IT WAS NOWHERE NEAR WHAT I THOUGHT IT'D BE.

I JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD FEEL LIKE,

NAH MAN, I'M GOOD.

LET'S TRY ONE MORE TIME!

I KNOW I CAN AT LEAST MAKE A HIT!

EVEN IF I CAN'T PLAY DEFENSE...

WITH MY BATTING AVERAGE BEING 0.385,

I'M MORE THAN CONFIDENT THAT I CAN HIT THE BALL.

!

LISTEN! YOU'RE PLAYING TOMOR-ROW!

YOU ABSO-LUTELY HAVE TO PLAY AND BE A PINCH HITTER!

ｶﾞﾗｶﾞﾗ

YOU HEAR ME!? YOU'LL PLAY AS A PINCH HITTER!! IF SOMEONE DOESN'T AGREE, I'LL MAKE THEM AGREE!!

AND IF WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT SCORING CHANCE, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO REPLACE SOME SHITTY BATTER!!

YOU GOING OUT INSTEAD OF SOME DUMBASS IS DEFINITELY THE WAY TO GO!

THIS IS THE GAME THAT WILL DECIDE OUR FATE!!

HIYAMA...

PLAY IN TOMOR-ROW'S GAME!!

YOU HAVE TO!!

WE'RE COUNT-ING ON YOU!!

HIYA-MAAAA!!

DON'T YOU DARE HIT A SHITTY GROUNDER TO SECOND AGAIN!!

KEEP IT ALIVE FOR ANIYA!!

EIGHT BATTER, SHORTSTOP HIYAMA-KUN.

STAY COOL, HIYAMA!!

HEYYY!! YOU FUCK, YOU BETTER GET ON BASE!!

SHORTSTOP HIYAMA-KUN.

"AND IF WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT SCORING CHANCE, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO REPLACE SOME SHITTY BATTER!!"

ガッ

KONAMI KONAM

HI-YAMA...

YO, WHAT THE FUCK, MAN!?

.....

FUCK... SO, IT WAS ME...

SHIT...

GOTCHA.

WAKANA.

YOU'RE UP.

SHUT THE FUCK UP!!

WHA!?

WH... WHAAA AAT!?

.....

WE NEED A BETTER HITTER THAN ME RIGHT NOW!!

I'M DOING THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM!! JUST TAKE A MINUTE AND THINK ABOUT IT, YOU FUCKS!!

IF ANY OF YOU FUCKERS COMPLAIN, I'LL BEAT THE LIVING SHIT OUTTA YOU!!

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
OF COURSE I'M COUNTING ON YOU, ASSHOLE!! DON'T TOUCH ME!!

BY KAWATO KOICHI.
FLUTTER INTO YOUR DREAMS, GLITTER INTO TOMORROW.

HIYAMA ...
GUH...

BUT WAKANA, YOUR FINGER ...

ISN'T THAT WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN YOUR MANUAL, OLD MAN?

AND TO SUPPORT IT WITH THE RIGHT HAND... THAT WAY, YOU CAN SWING THE BAT WITH MORE EASE.

.....

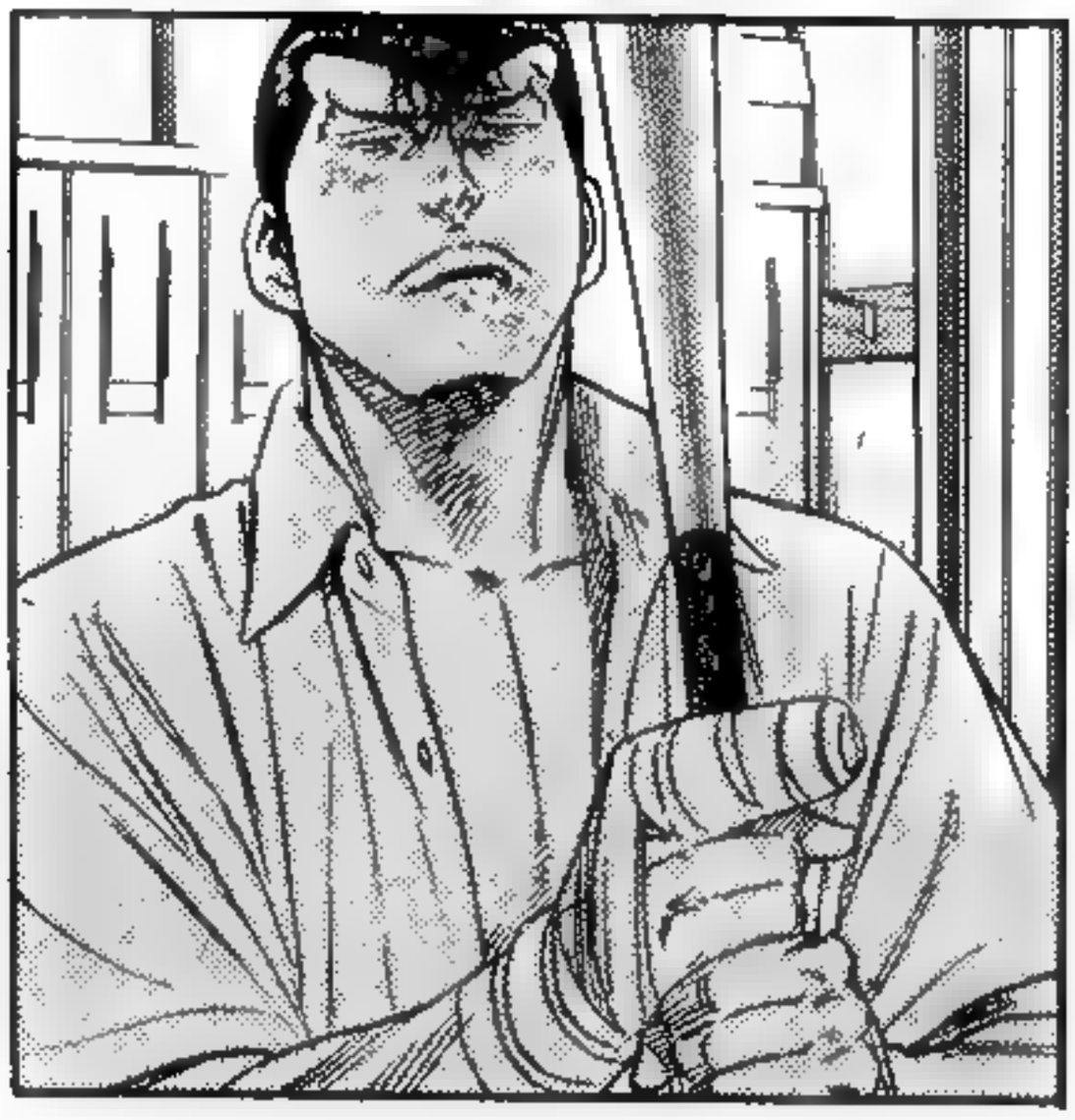
TO HOLD THE BAT, IT'S RECOMMEND-ED TO HAVE A STRONG GRIP WITH YOUR LEFT HAND

WAKANA ...

MY, MY...

.....

AH, WELL... FUCK IT, IT'LL JUST HURT FOR A SECOND.



Vol.227

For That One At Bat

NUMBER 2,

WAKANA-KUN.

A SUBSTITUTION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR FUTAGO-TAMAGAWA.

WHAT? WHO?

CHATTER CHATTER

CHATTER CHATTER

THE EIGHT BATTER HIYAMA IS BEING SUB-STITUTED BY

NIKOGAKU DESIGNATED WAKANA AS THE PINCH HITTER. HE INJURED HIS RIGHT INDEX FINGER IN THE GAME AGAINST SASAZAKI TWO DAYS AGO.

WAKANA IS REPLACING HIYAMA.

W... WAKANA!?

WAKA-NA...!

I THOUGHT HE WAS INJURED!?

Ptu!

HIYAMA.

HEY, WEREN'T YOU INJURED? DIDN'T YOU HAVE A BANDAGE EARLIER...?

YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW... A MIRACLE HAPPENED,

DON'T TELL ME THAT THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE, 'CUZ I KNOW ALREADY!

THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP THE FLOW GOING FOR ANIYA.

NO, REALLY.

AND HALLELUJAH, I'VE BEEN HEALED!

HEH! SOMEONE WHO HITS THE BALL 20% OF THE TIME IS WORTHLESS NEXT TO SOMEONE WHO HITS IT NEARLY 40% OF THE TIME...

AND IF THAT BASTARD BLOWS THIS CHANCE, I'MA FUCKIN' KILL HIM!!

HIYA-MA...

PLAY BALL!

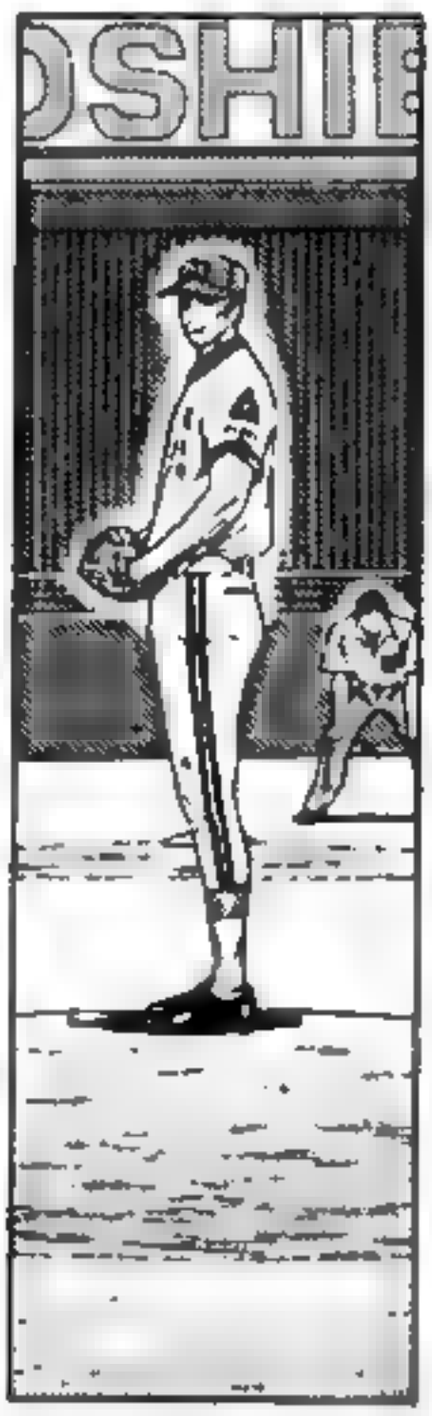
I'M USED TO GETTING SUBBED OUT.

.....

LOOK AT WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YA, MIKOSHIBA!

HAMANAKA IS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT IN MY PLACE.
THIS INJURY IS KEEPING ME FROM PLAYING DEFENSE, THAT MUCH IS OBVIOUS.

C'MON, THE PAIN WILL ONLY LAST FOR A SECOND!



I JUST NEED TO THINK ABOUT GETTING ON BASE FOR ANIYA!!

HIT IT!!!

AND NOTHING ELSE!!

HIT IT!!!

HE HIT IIIIT!!

WAKANA HIT THE BALL DOWN THE THIRD BASE LINE!!

HE DIVES TO GRAB THE BALL AND...

BUT THE THIRD BASEMAN REACTED QUICKLY TO THE HIT!

WAAAAA

NO, DON'T CATCH IT!!

OHHHH!!

OHHHH! THE BALL BOUNCED OFF OF THIRD BASE!

IT BOUNCED OFF OF THIRD BASE AND PASSED BY THE PLAYER!

THE RUNNER STOPPED ON THIRD BASE!

HEY, I'M TELLING YOU TO KEEP GOING!!

HE'S NOT EVEN TRYING TO MAKE IT HOME!!

OHHH!!

BASES LOADED...

THE BASES ARE LOADED AND THERE'S NOBODY OUT!!

YOU SNEAKY FUCK!!

HA HAHA HAHA! AWE-SOME!

WAKA-NAAAA!!

HELL YEAH!!

FIGHT!!

HEHE...

WAKA-NA...

GOOD, IT'S TIME...

THIS IS IT!

NIKOGAKU HAS CREATED THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY THROUGH THEIR PERSEVERANCE.

BASES LOADED WITH NOBODY OUT.

WELL DONE...

NIKOGAKU IS MOUNTING QUITE THE RUN!

JINGU STADIUM IS ROARING WITH SCREAMS OF EXCITEMENT!

ANIYA IS NOW UP AT BAT.

NINTH BATTER, FIRST BASEMAN ANIYA-KUN.

1

FIRST BASEMAN, ANIYA-KUN.

IF HE KEPT PLAYING LIKE THAT, THEN HE'S PROBABLY BEEN SUBBED OUT ALREADY...

.....

THEY SHOULD BE NEAR THE END OF THE GAME...

WOOOW!

THAT CAKE LOOKS SO YUMMY!

FANS OF NIKOGAKU HAVE BEEN WAITING ALL DAY FOR THIS MOMENT!

PLAY BALL!

TOSHIBA KIRIN

BASES LOADED, NO OUTS, WITH A THREE POINT DEFICIT.

!

OH NO, HE CHANGED CHANNELS!

CLICK

AWWW...

BUT IT'S APPARENT THAT EVERYTHING NIKOGAKU HAS DONE THIS INNING IS TO SET UP ANIYA!

HE'S BEEN STRUCKOUT TWICE TODAY,

安仁屋恵壹(2年) 580

今日の成績 三振 三振

HE PLAYED THROUGH THE PAIN!?

HOW...

YOU'RE A PUSSY IF YOU DON'T!!

ANIYA! FINISH IT IN A SINGLE SWING!!

ANIYA-KUN...

CHATTER CHATTER

THE STADIUM SUDDENLY FELL INTO SILENCE...

WHAT NERVE-RACKING MOMENTS OF TENSION.

M

KEI-CHAN...

YEAH, WE MADE IT TO THIS STAGE...

BECAUSE WE BELIEVED WE COULD MAKE IT...

MADE IT TO THIS STAGE...

WE REALLY...

IT JUST MIGHT BE A SIGN FROM ABOVE THAT WE HAVE TO WIN.

IF WE MADE IT TO THIS POINT SO THAT ANIYA COULD BE THE BATTER, IT'S BECAUSE FATE WOULD HAVE IT.

IT'S GONNA BE OKAY, ANIYA!!

BUT IT'LL BE OKAY...

YOU'RE ONLY ALLOWED TO SWING WITH FULL STRENGTH ONCE.

TOSHIBA

KIRI

IT'LL BE OKAY!!

ENEOS
新聞社

HE CONNECTED WITH THE FIRST PITCH HE SAW!!

OHHH... AND IT FOULED TO THE LEFT.

THE CROWD LETS OUT A HEAVY SIGH.

AHHH, FUCK... HE USED A FULL SWING.

HE WAS ONLY ALLOWED TO USE ONE.

KEI-
CHAN
...

ANIYA...

Vol.228 Willpower

ANOTHER STRONG SWING ON THE SECOND PITCH... BUT HE COMPLETELY MISSED THE BALL.

STRIIIKE!!

OHHH...

NO BALLS, TWO STRIKES.

.....

ANIYA!

STRONG MOVEMENTS ACCELERATE THE BLOOD FLOW AND THE EFFECTS OF THE ANESTHETICS WEAR OFF FASTER.

EVERY SWING YOU TAKE INCREASES THE PAIN.

BASES LOADED, NOBODY OUT.

NIKOGAKU IS BETTING EVERYTHING ON ANIYA!

ACTUALLY, THE EFFECTS HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY WORN OFF.

1

IF HE'S STILL HOLDING ON...

YOU OKAY?

HAAAH...

HAH...

IT'S THANKS TO HIS WILL-POWER.

IF WE LOSE, IT'LL ALL BE OVER FOR US...

YOU UNDER-STAND THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE...

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SCORE...

IT'S PRACTICALLY NOW OR NEVER FOR US, ANIYA...

2

I DON'T WANT IT TO BE OVER AFTER TODAY...

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU...

ANIYA!!

YOU CAN DO IT!

ANIYA!

1
BX

フジテレ

M

TOKYO

WAIT A MINUTE...

PLEASE WAAAAIT!!

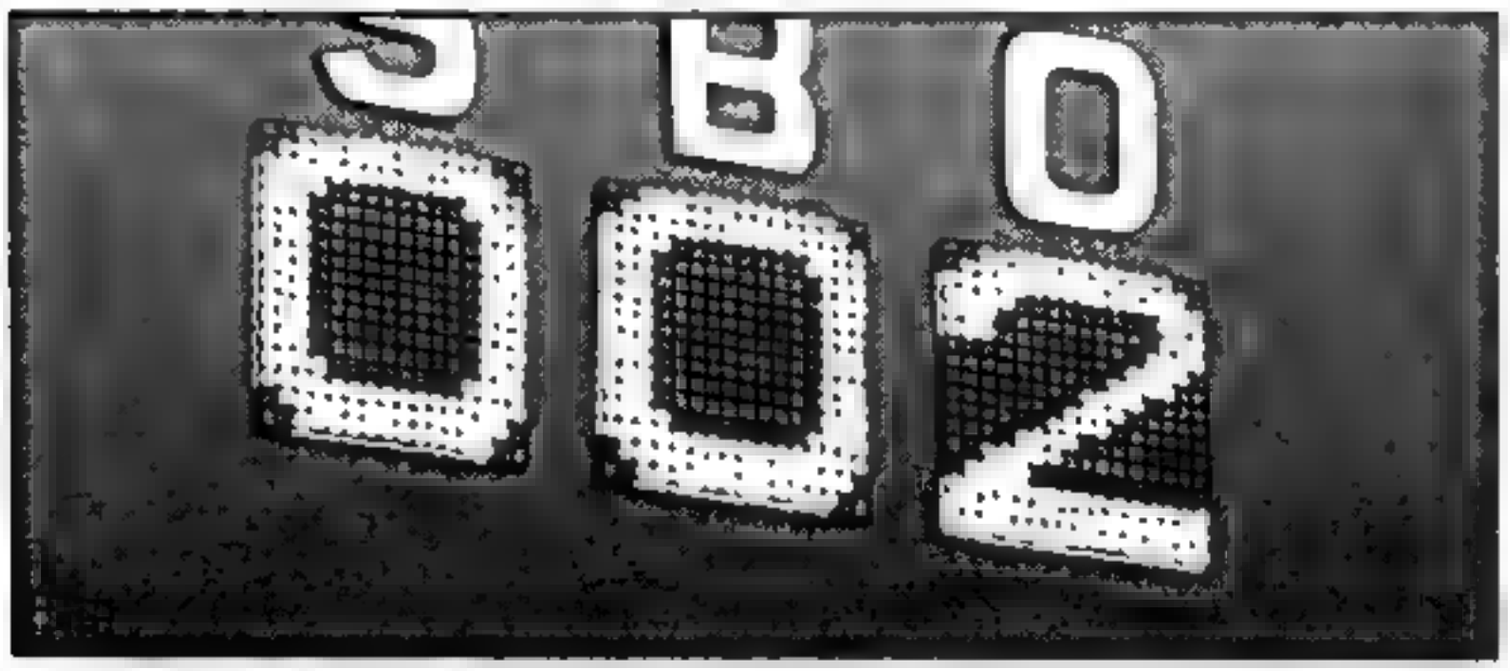
JUST WAIT!

NO WAY...

4

4

YOU'RE KIDDING ME!!?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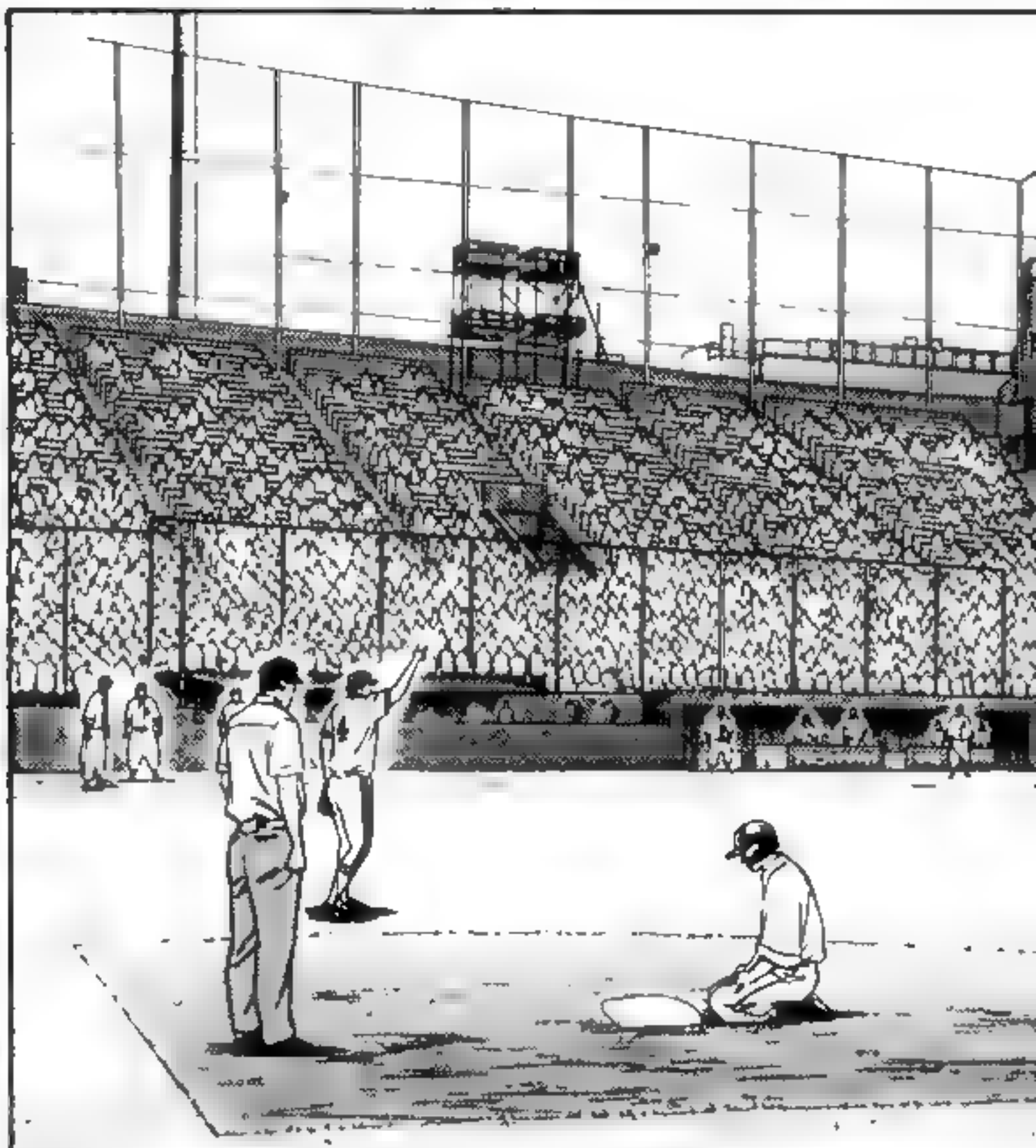
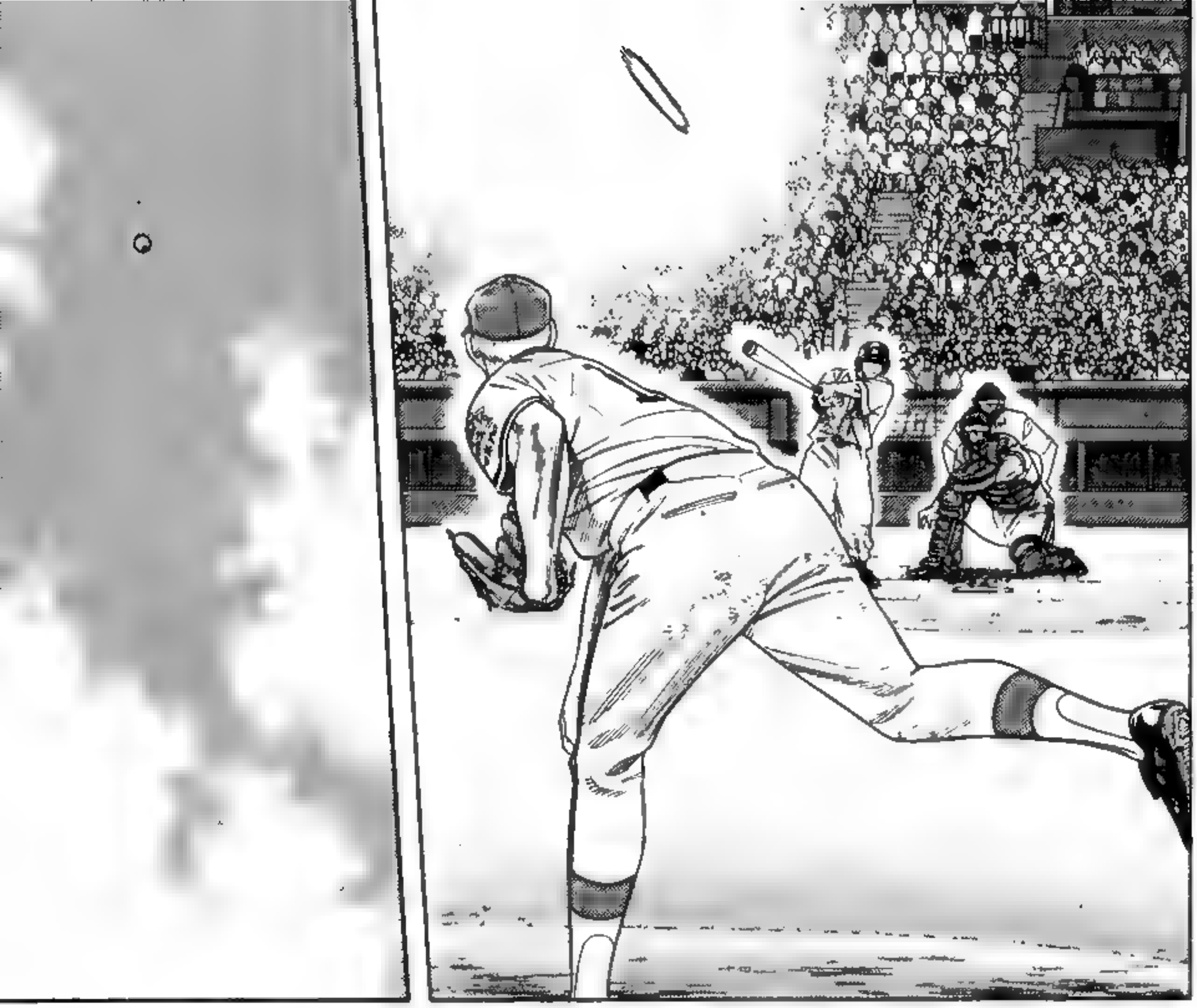
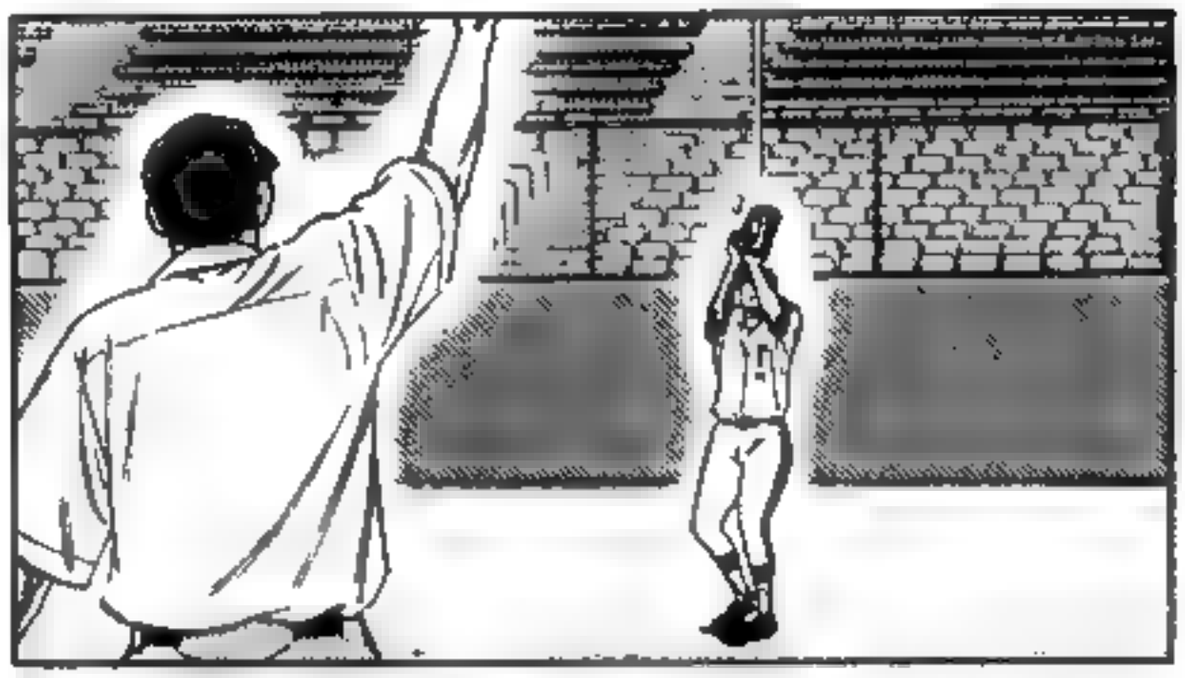
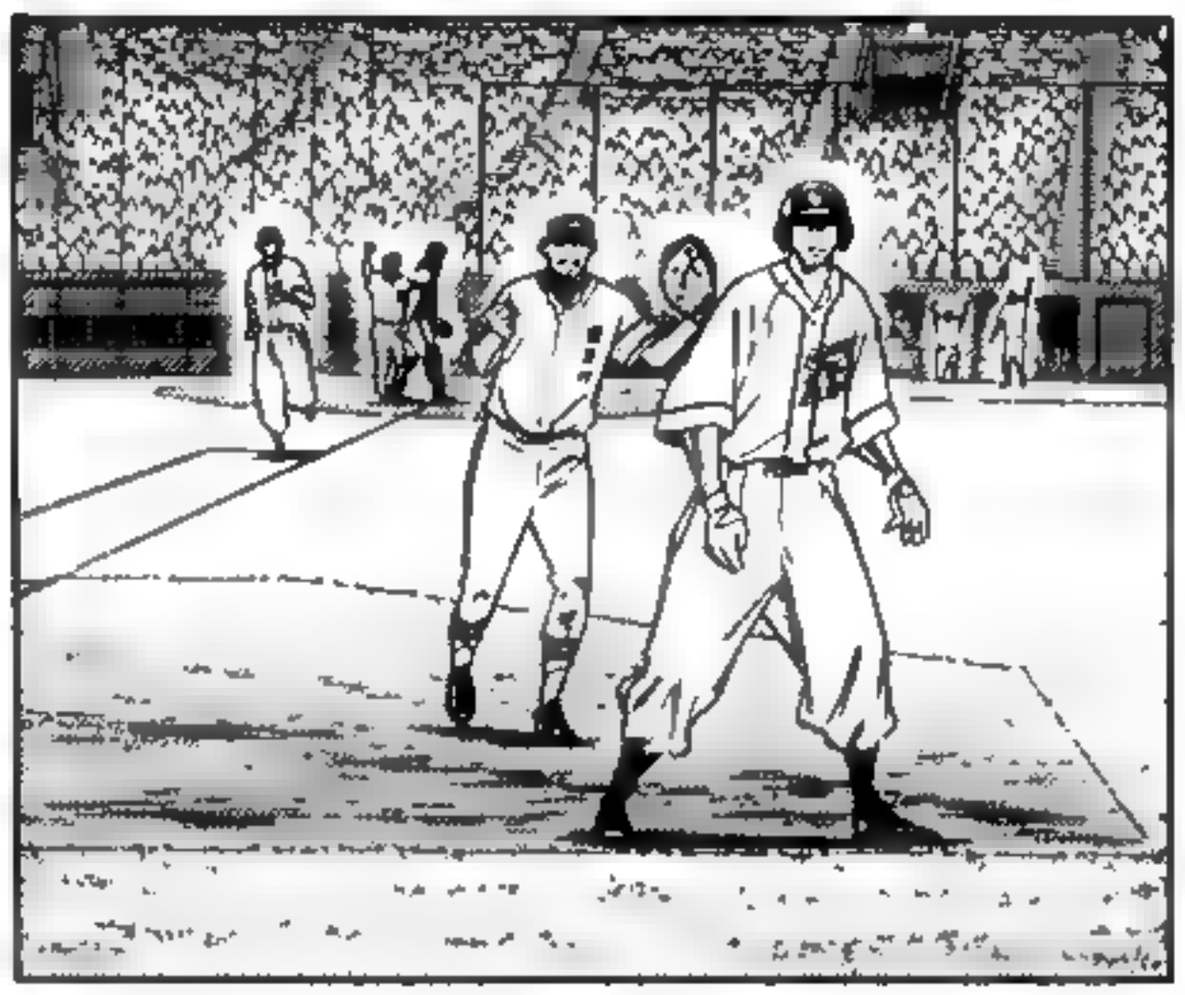




THAT WAS OUR LAST REAL CHANCE TO SCORE...





OUR LAST CHANCE...

3

SLAM

THE SITUATION KEEPS ON GETTING WORST FOR NIKOGAKU.

HAS THE SPIRIT OF NIKOGAKU BEEN CRUSHED?

AFTER MISSING OUT ON A GREAT SCORING OPPORTUNITY IN THE BOTTOM OF THE EIGHT,

NIKOGAKU'S HAD A LET DOWN IN PLAY TO START THE TOP OF THE EIGHT!

HOW LONG WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD ON?

AKABOSHI MUST BE RUNNING ON FUMES, HE'S THROWN OVER 140 PITCHES SO FAR.

THERE ARE RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND WITH NO OUTS!

BUT THINGS AREN'T GOING TO GET ANY EASIER FOR NIKOGAKU!!

FOURTH BATTER, CATCHER KONO-KUN.

CATCHER KONO-KUN.

SERI-OUSLY ...?

S...

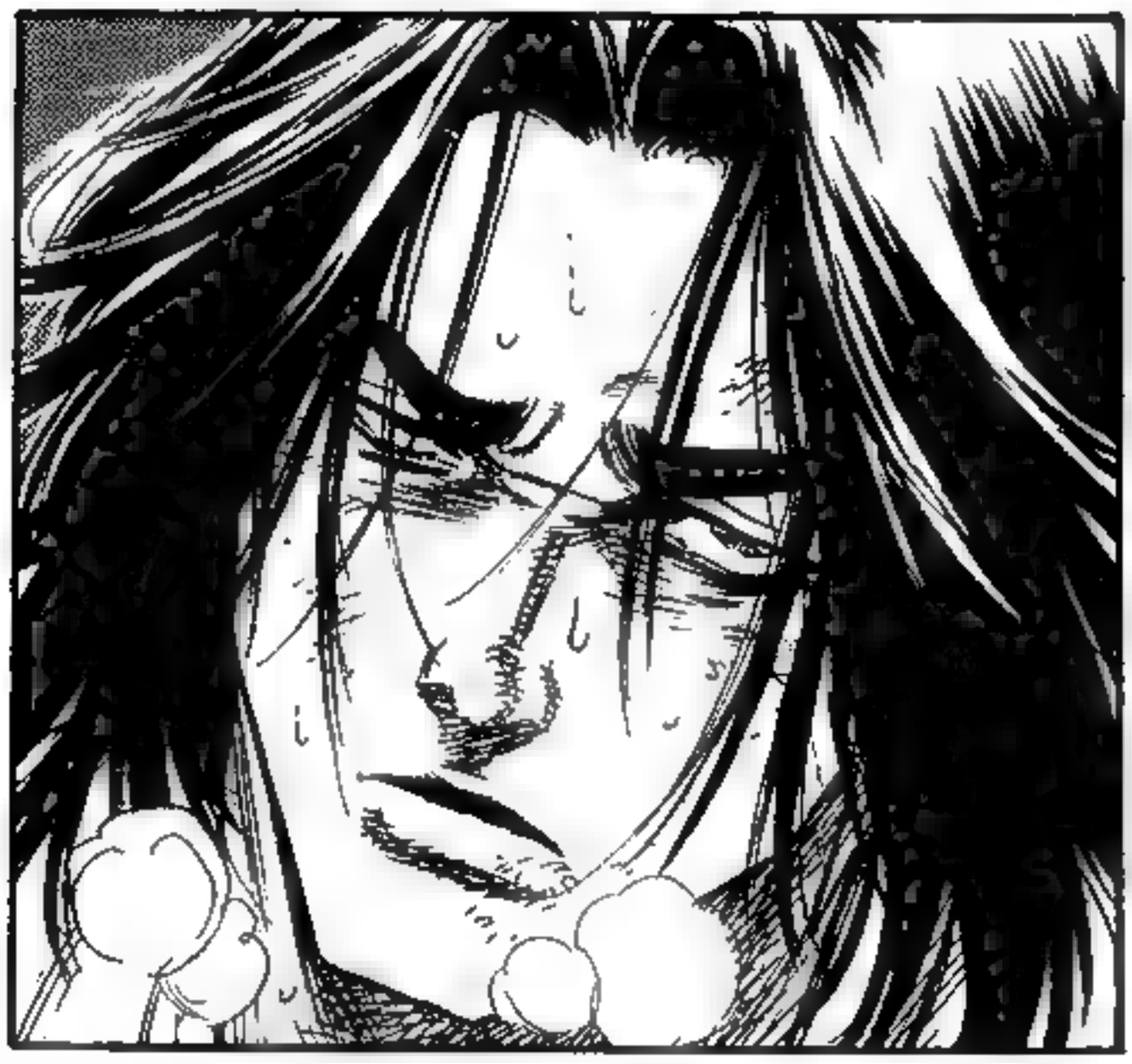
YES, KONO IS UP AT BAT.

WILL KONO PUT THE FINAL NAIL IN NIKOGAKU'S COFFIN!?

!

I'M GONNA PITCH TO KONO.

MOVE.



WHAT'S GOING ON?

TOSHIBA KIRIN ENEOS

AKABOSHI'S GIVING UP THE MOUND TO ANIVA.

THE NEXT BATTER IS KONO AND

ARE... ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

CHATTER CHATTER

BUT IS ANIVA ABLE TO THROW EFFECTIVELY AS HE IS RIGHT NOW!?

KONO HAS MANAGED TO HIT EVERYTHING AKABOSHI THREW AT HIM TODAY...

CHATTER CHATTER

WON'T ONE OF YOU BOYS SAY SOME-THING!?

.....

I KNOW THE DOCTOR SAID IT WAS OKAY FOR HIM TO PITCH, BUT HE USED UP ALL OF HIS ENERGY ON THOSE SWINGS EARLIER!!

THIS IS TOO MUCH!

.....

BUT...

Vol.229 Kawato Isn't Here

WHY ARE YOU ALL SO QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN!?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS SUBSTITU-TION?

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, ANIYA SEEMS TO BE WORN OUT.

IT'S NOT ALL THAT SURPRISING THAT THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'VE LOST THEIR WILLPOWER ALL OF A SUDDEN.

YES, EVERYTHING.

THEIR PLAN OF PUTTING EVERYTHING INTO A SINGLE ATTACK COMPLETELY FLOPPED!

SO THE BENCH HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO COUNT ON THE ONLY PLAYER WITH ANY WILLPOWER REMAINING.

IT'S SAD, BUT THAT'S NIKOGAKU'S CURRENT REALITY.

BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY.

THEY'RE ALL WORN OUT.

NOT EVEN MIKOSHIBA IS ABLE TO KEEP HIS HEAD UP STRAIGHT AND CHEER HIS TEAMMATES ON.

ANNOUNCING A CHANGE IN FUTAKOTAMAGAWA HIGHSCHOOL'S FORMATION.

SHORTSTOP SHINJO WILL PLAY RIGHT FIELD,

SECOND BASEMAN IMAOKA WILL PLAY SHORTSTOP,

CATCHER MIKOSHIBA WILL PLAY SECOND BASE,

CHATTER CHATTER

CHATTER CHATTER

RIGHT FIELDER YUFUNE WILL PLAY FIRST BASE,

PITCHER AKABOSHI WILL PLAY CATCHER,

AND FIRST BASEMAN ANIYA-KUN WILL PITCH.

THEY JUST SHUFFLED THE PLAYERS AROUND.

tchak

UH, UMMM... AKABOSHI IS NOW THE CATCHER AND, UH, MIKOSHIBA IS, UM...

IN THEIR CURRENT SITUATION.

MOVING THEM AROUND WILL CHANGE NOTHING

AFTER THESE MODIFICATIONS,

ANIYA WILL NOW THROW!

IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY. IT'S BECAUSE KAWATO ISN'T HERE.

.....

FFFF...

WHY?

AND THEY'VE GOT NOTHING TO CLING ON TO EITHER.

THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO TO RECOVER

AH, UH...

N- NEVERMIND...

ARE YOU COMING IN?

?

DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKET?

神宮野球場

第84回 全国高校野球選手権東京大会

UGH... WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?

HMM? ANIYA ISN'T THROWING ANY WARM-UP PITCHES?

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO GO IN, I WAS BANNED...

AND IT'D RUIN EVERYTHING WHEN THEY'RE ALL WORKING SO HARD.

COULD IT BE BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT TO WASTE EVEN A DROP OF HIS REMAINING ENERGY?

LET ME REMIND THE AUDIENCE THAT HE'S UP AGAINST THE POWER SLUGGER KONO.

THE PLAYERS ON THE NIKOGAKU BENCH LOOK LIKE THEY'VE GIVEN UP.

NONE OF THE PLAYERS ARE EVEN MAKING A PEEP TO ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER.

AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS?

IS THERE REALLY NOTHING I CAN DO

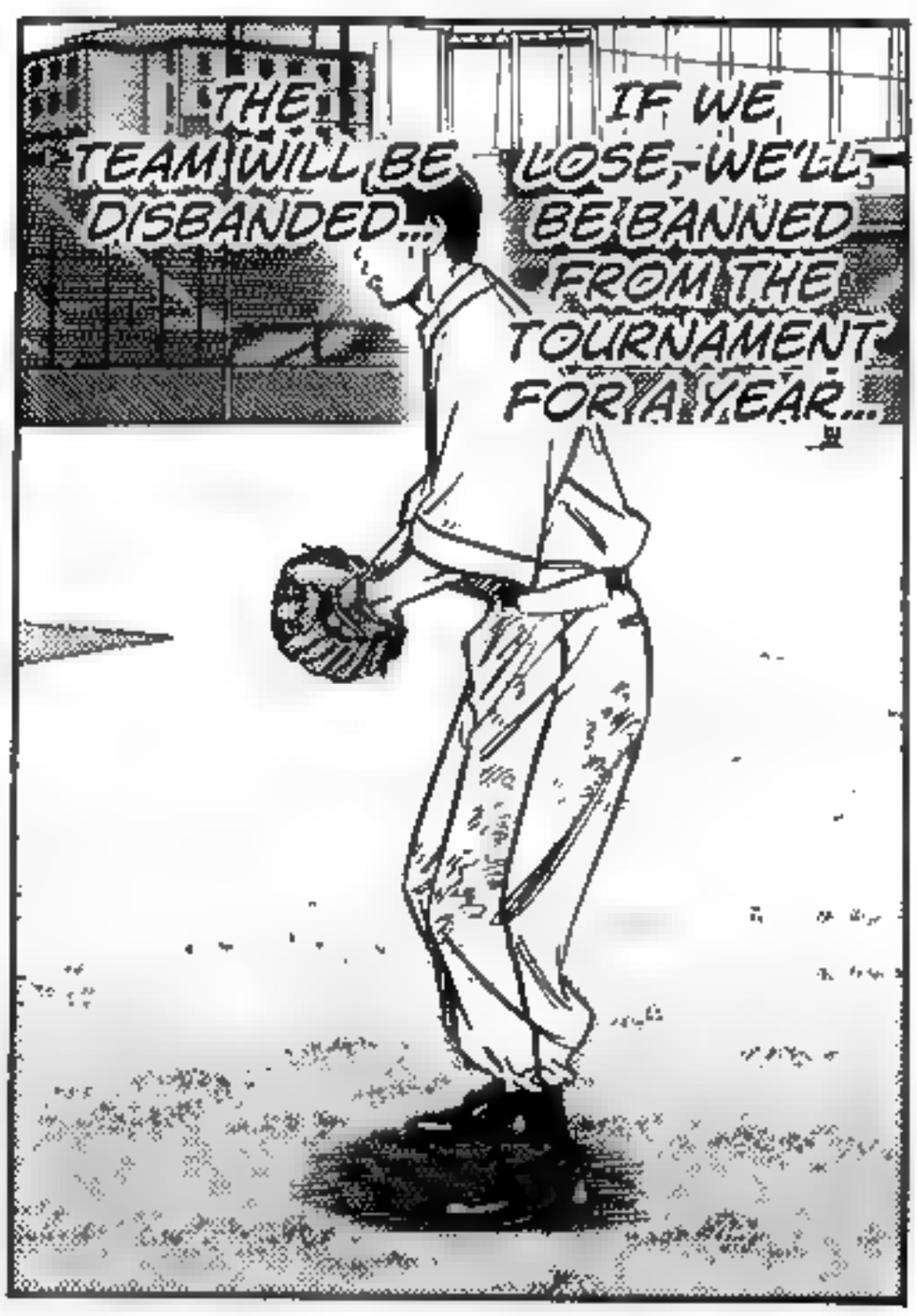
SHIT...

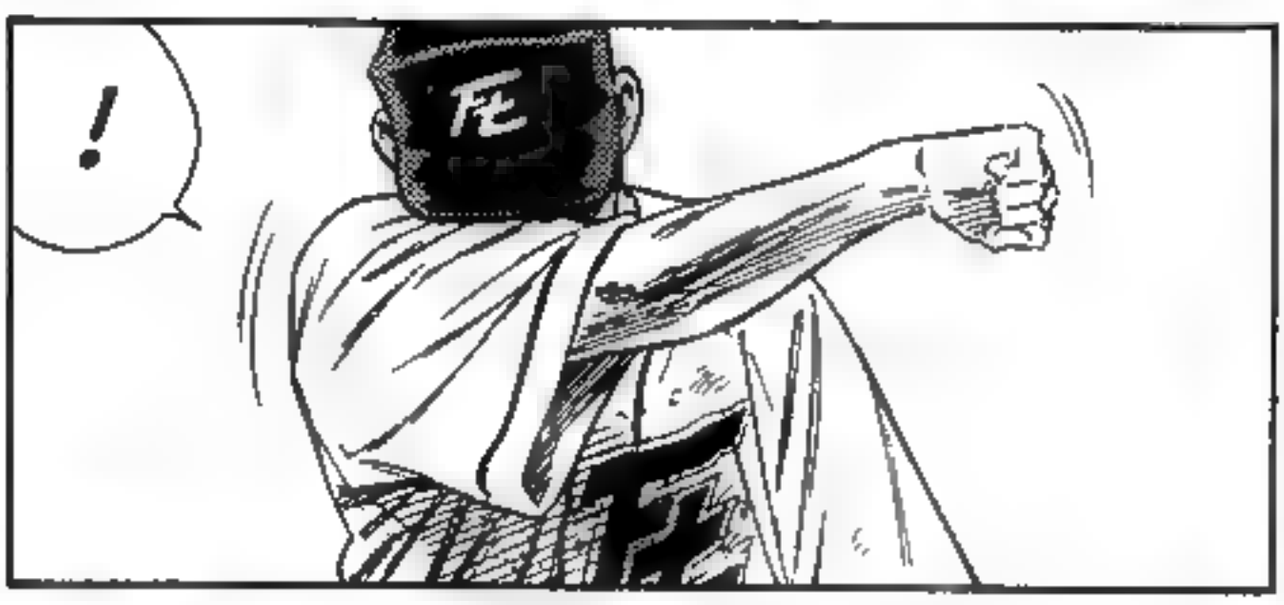
テレビ朝日 朝日新聞

TOSHI

CAN'T I DO ANYTHING!?

M


THE TEAM WILL BE DISBANDED...
IF WE LOSE, WE'LL BE BANNED FROM THE TOURNAMENT FOR A YEAR...


!

I KNOW THAT I CAN'T LOSE HOPE, BUT...
I KNOW...

GET IT TOGETHER...
NO, THIS ISN'T THE TIME...
4

GUH!!

PLEASE TELL US EVERYTHING IS GONNA BE FINE...!

SENSEI...

IT'LL BE ALRIGHT, WON'T IT?

A FLY BALL HIT TOWARDS RIGHT FIELD! IT'S GOT ENOUGH POWER BEHIND IT!

HAVE THEY COMPLETELY GIVEN UP? THE NIKOGAKU PLAYERS DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER LOOKING AT THE BALL'S TRAJECTORY!

OHHHH, AND IT FOULED TO THE RIGHT.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU CAN HEAR THEM THINKING OUTLOUD, "I DON'T CARE ANYMORE!"

ALL OF THE PLAYERS LOOK COMPLETELY WORN OUT!

THE STADIUM SIGHS A BREF OF RELIEF.

AHHHHH!

HUH?

BU-

OUTTA THE WAY, ASSHOLE!

SHIT...

HUH!? SHUT THE FUCK UP!

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING!?

AHHHH! HEYYYY!!! I CAN'T HEAR ANY-THING!!

IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR SPACIN' OUT WIT' SOME DUMBASS LOOK ON YOUR FACE.

DO YOU WANNA DIE, ASS-HOLE!?

WE AIN'T EXACTLY IN A GOOD MOOD RIGHT NOW, SO FUCK OFF!

NO SHIT?

HMM? I KNOW THAT DUDE'S FACE FROM SOMEWHERE ...

OH YEAH, HE'S THAT YAKUZA COACH FROM THE PAPERS.

ANIYA! DON'T ANY OF YOU DARE GIVE UP!!

CRAP!!

WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPEN-ED!?

YOU GUYS HAVEN'T LOST YET, RIGHT!?

YO, YOU LISTENIN'!? A COACH NEEDS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY WHEN HIS PLAYER FUCKS UP!!

AHAHA! RIGHT, RIGHT, HE'S THE DUDE THAT WENT TO THE OTHER TEAM'S BENCH TO YELL AT THEM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME.

.....

HEY, COACH, ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS HIT ME YESTERDAY!

HUH!? WHAT!? THE FUCK D'YOU JUST SAY!?

AHHH... WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING HERE...?

!

I CAN'T BE SITTING HERE IDLY WHILE THEY'RE SUFFERING...

EIYO, WE'RE TALKING TO YOU, MOTHER-FUCKER!!

YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO AIN'T GOT NO RESOLVE TO FIGHT.

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU CAN'T HEAR US!

GUHAH!!

.....

ANY RESOLVE?

I DON'T HAVE...

HAH...

HAAAH...

THIS TIME, KONO BLASTS A FOUL BALL TO THE BLEACHERS ON THE LEFT.

OHH, ANIVA'S CRUMBLED TO HIS KNEES!

KEI-CHAN...

RE-SOLVE ...

MY...

HAHAHA... YOU'RE A FUNNY DUDE.

HE AIN'T EVEN FIGHTIN' BACK!

SWEET, LET ME AT 'IM TOO!

YEAAAAH!!

MY TURN!!

AGH!!

HEYYY!! WHO THE FUCK ARE YOU!?

GWAH!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE I FOUND EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED.

I CAME TO CHECK OUT THE RETARDS THAT WERE CAUSING A RUCKUS DURING THE GAME,

KA... KAMI-SAKA...

KAWATO-SENSEI?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE WHEN YOU WERE BANNED FROM THE MATCH,

NOW GET LOST WHILE I HANDLE THESE KIDS!

THIS IS PERFECT... I WAS ACTUALLY WANTING TO REPAY MY DEBT TO YOU, ANYWAY.

EIYO, WHAT THE FUCK!?

YOU'RE FUCKING DEAD!!

JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU,

YEAH, I'M GONNA TAKE UP A KARATE QUALIFICATION TEST SOON.

I WILL RULE TOKYO FAIR AND SQUARE.

HANDLE US!?

BITCH, PLEASE!

DEBT?

YOU'RE ONE WEIRD TEACH!

HMPH!

.....

THAT YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR WORDS ALONE ARE ENOUGH TO GIVE HOPE AND STRENGTH TO THOSE AROUND YOU?

DON'T YOU GET IT?

GIVE HOPE AND STRENGTH...

ENOUGH WITH YOUR BULL-SHIT!!

.....

IT'S NOT A SURPRISE THAT THE BASEBALL CLUB'S BECOME SO STRONG,

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE WITH THEM!

NOW, GO!! HURRY UP!!

.....

IS TO GO JOIN THEM!!

YES...

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO...

KYAAA!!

WHO'S NEXT!?

HEY!! CATCH THAT MAN!!

KILL THAT MOTHER-FUCKER!!

ENTRANCE IS FORBIDDEN FROM HERE ON EXCEPT FOR PERSONNEL!

HEY, WAIT!!

MAKE WAY!!

OUT OF THE WAY!!

THAT GUY CAME IN WITHOUT A TICKET!!

WHAT'S WITH ALL OF THE RUCKUS!?

HMM?

AHHH!! IT'S YOU!?

HEY! HE'S HEADED TOWARDS THE FIELD!

CATCH HIM!

YOU WERE BANNED FROM THE TOURNA-MENT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE HEADED TOWARDS THE BENCH!?

K... KAWATO-SAN!!

.....

.....

CANCEL THE GAME AND ANNOUNCE MEGU-ROGAWA AS THE WINNERS IMME-DIATELY!!

CANCEL THE GAME!

Vol.230 An Elixir

HIS FATIGUE HAS PROBABLY EXCEEDED HIS LIMITS.

ANIYA FINALLY GOT UP AND SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO CATCH HIS BREATH...

HIS WILL IS ALL THAT KEEPS HIM STANDING AGAINST KONO.

HAH

HAH

HAAAH ...

KONO HAS HIT BOTH OF ANIYA'S PITCHES WITH MASSIVE POWER AND WOULD HAVE EASILY BEEN HOMERUNS IF THEY HAD STAYED IN PLAY.

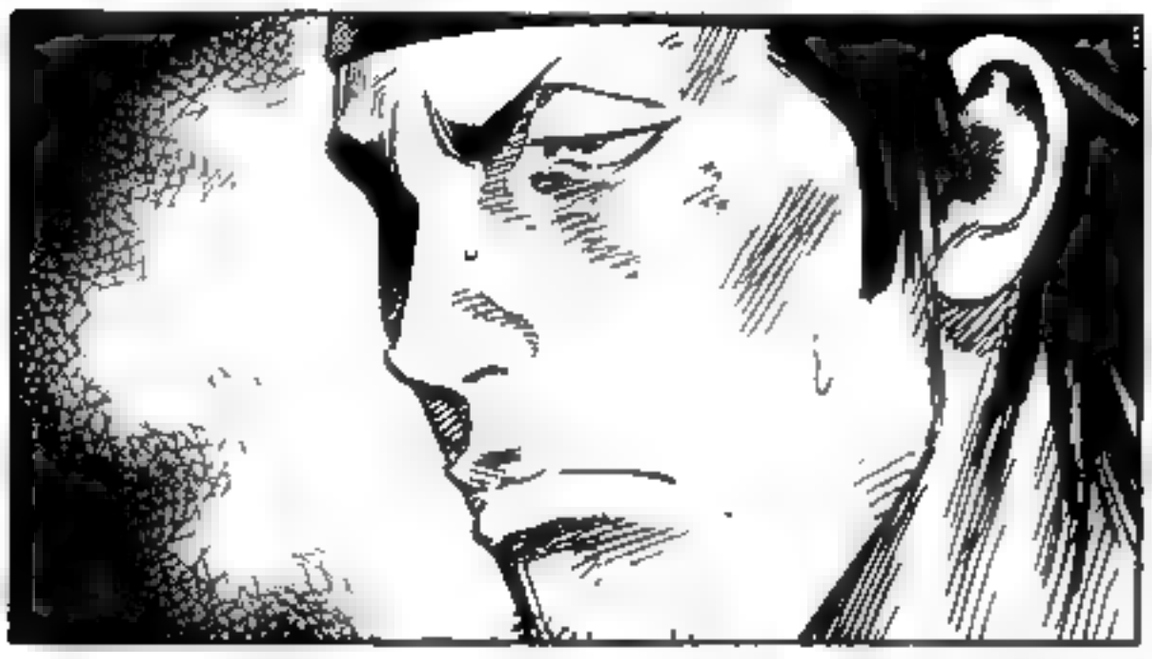
FUJITA-SENSEI! I BOUGHT YOU SOME ICE CREAM!

IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE THE NIKOGAKU FANS BY THE FIRST BASE ARE PRAYING.

THE SCORE IS STILL 4-1 FOR MEGUROGAWA, WITH RUNNERS ON FIRST AND SECOND AND NOBODY OUT. NIKOGAKU IS IN A VERY PRECARIOUS SITUATION!

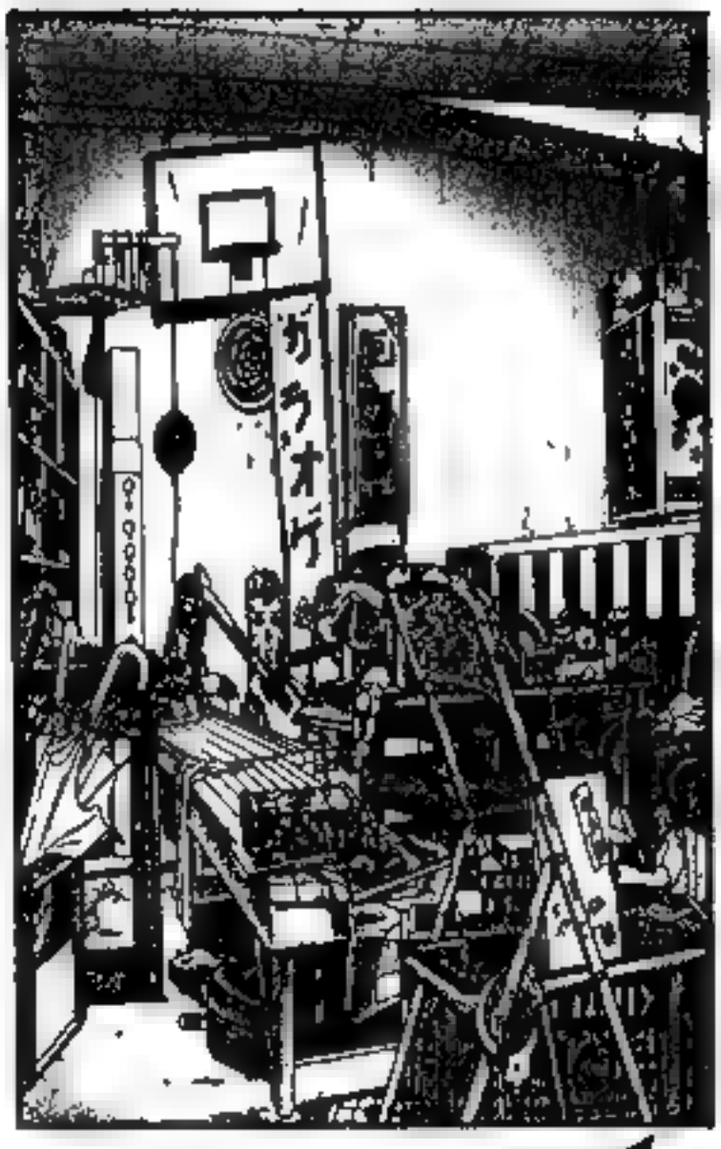
WILL THEY BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE HOLE THEY'VE DUG UP THIS INNING?

……



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO
INSTEAD?

SO, IF WE CAN'T PLAY BASEBALL ANYMORE...
……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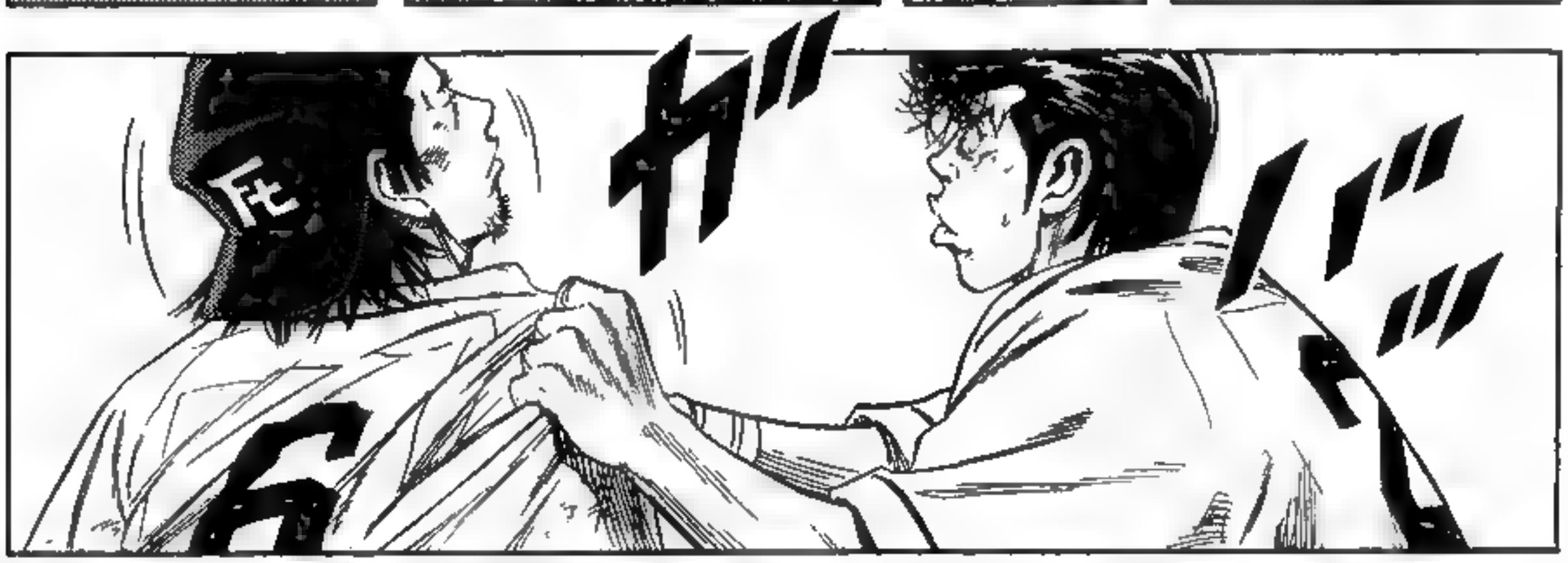
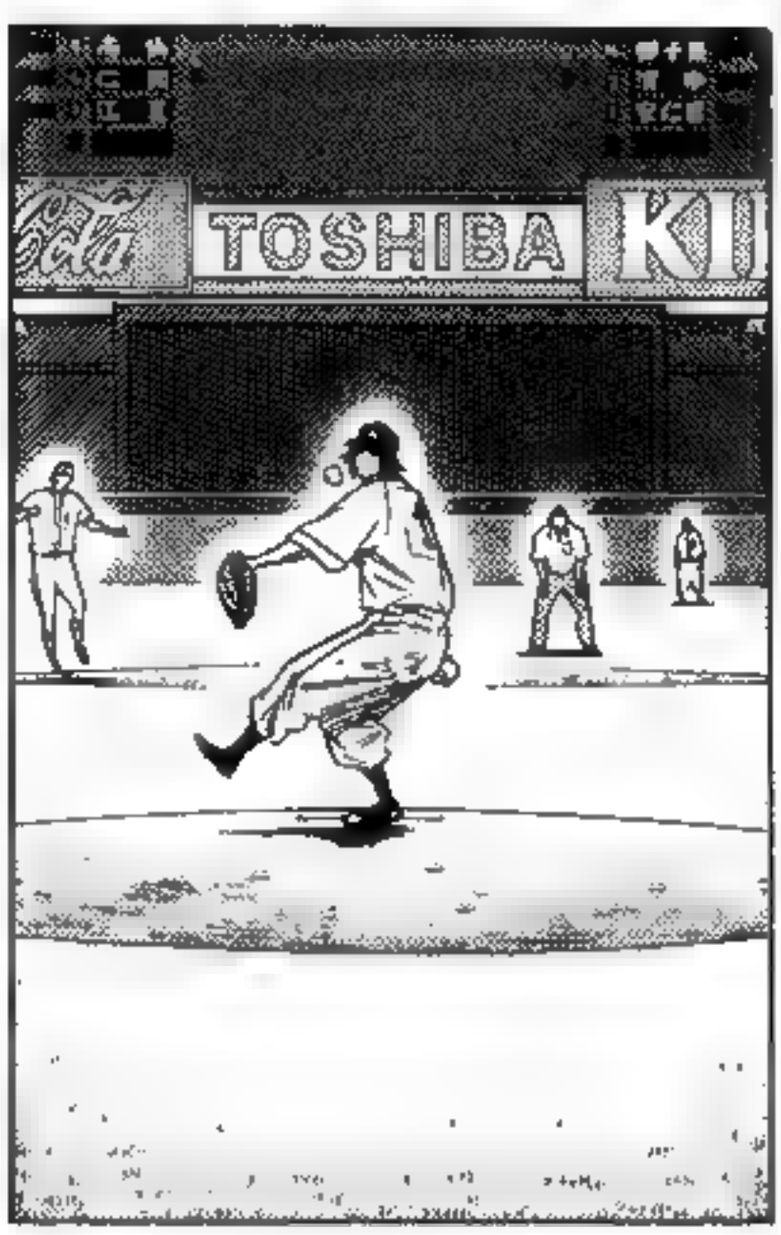
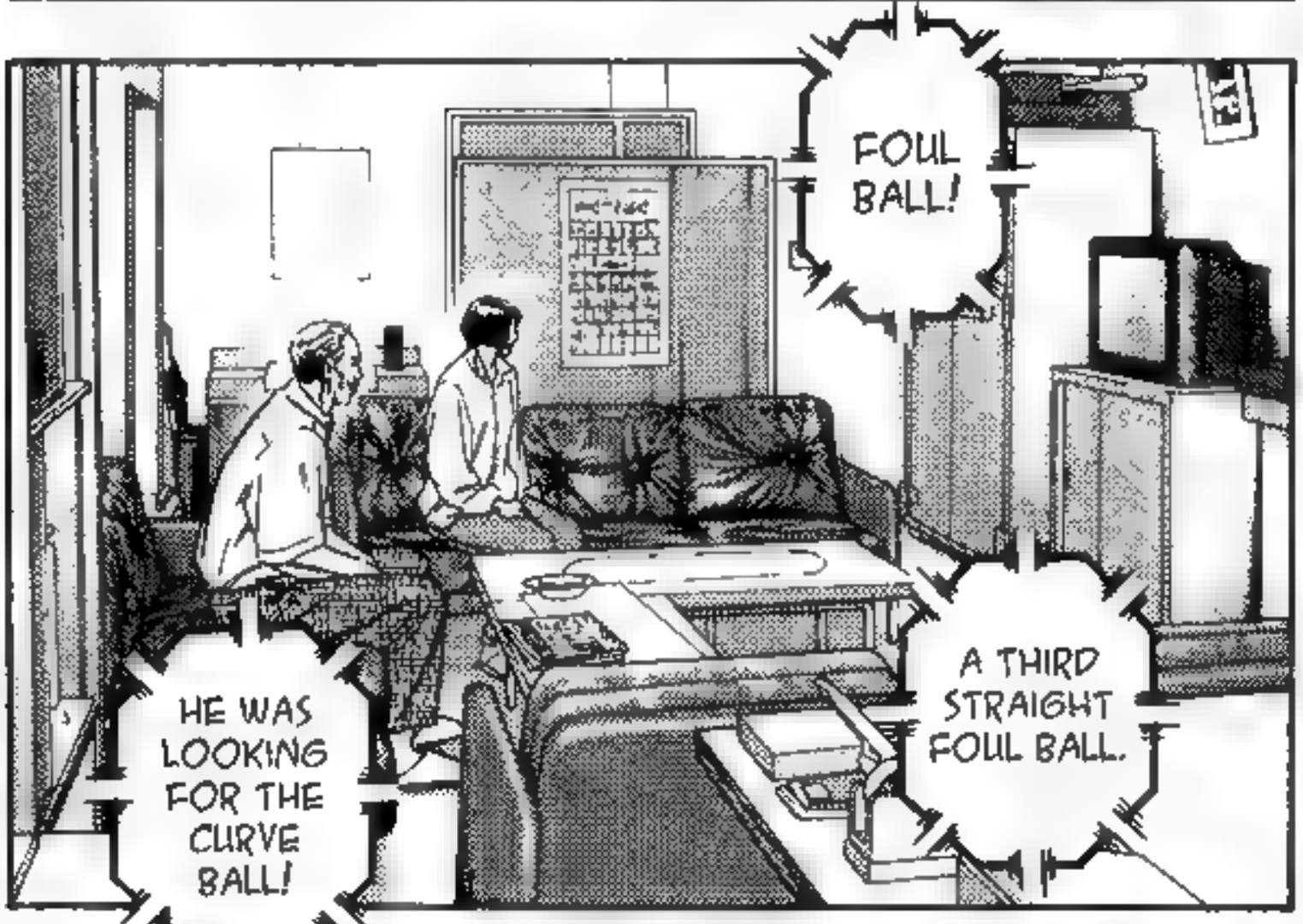


……

TOKYO

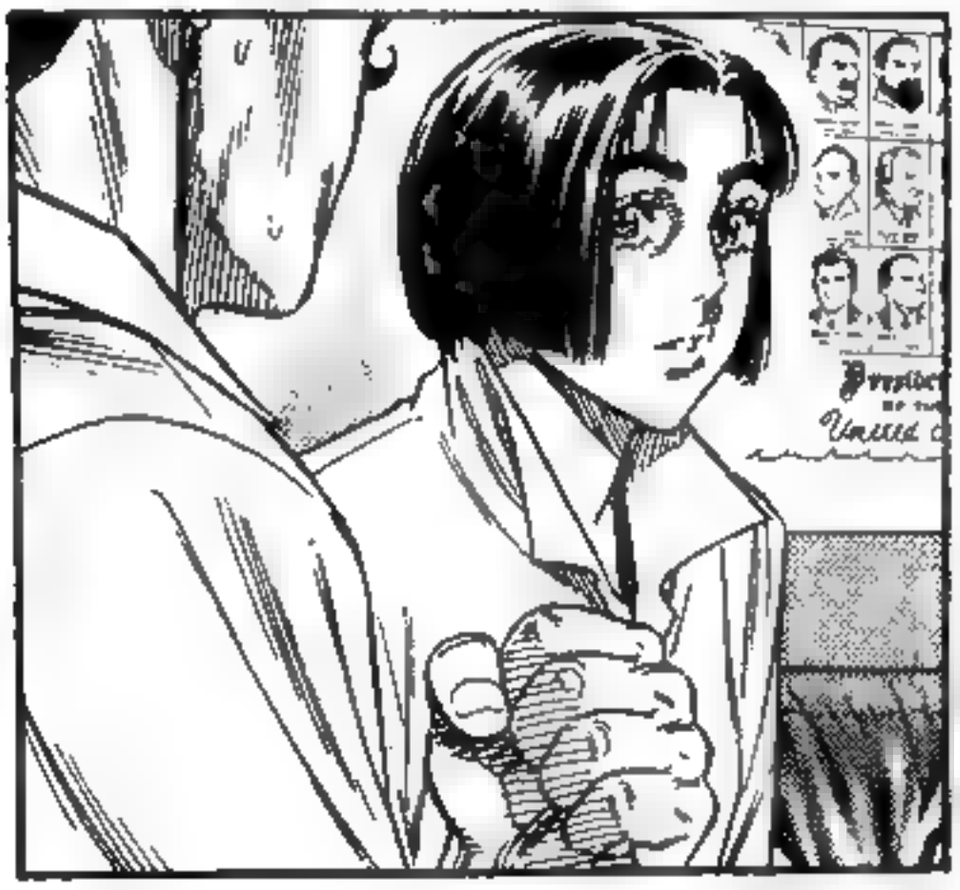
FUCK!!


TOSHIBA


FOUL BALL!
HE WAS LOOKING FOR THE CURVE BALL!
A THIRD STRAIGHT FOUL BALL.

CLENG
KONO CONNECTS—

LIC



106

KEI-CHAN...

THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY,

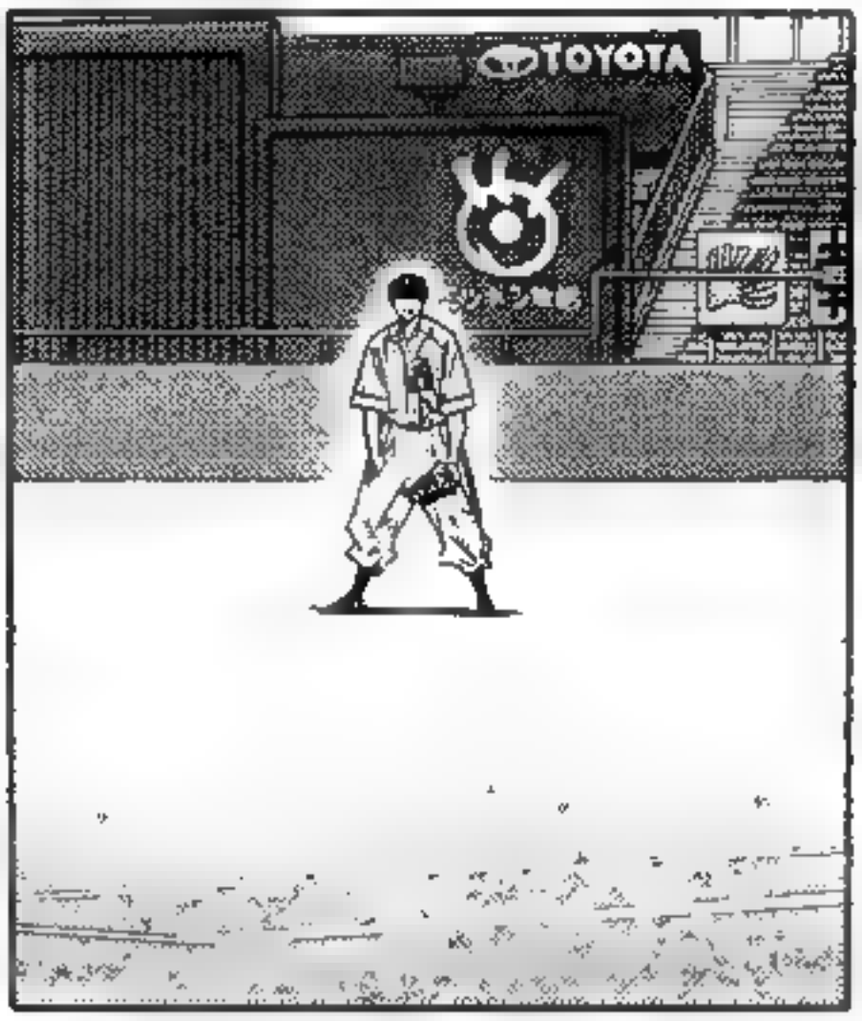
WIN 単勝 15 TUMBLING DICE ★1000

AT LEAST NIKOGAKU FOUGHT THEIR HEARTS OUT.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO FUCKING LOSE...
WE WON'T LOSE...

WE'LL NEVER LO...

WHOA.


TOYOTA

HE... HEHE...
...YOU DUMB-ASS...

KONAMI KONAMI
KONAMI KONAMI
KONAMI KONAMI

OH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU GUYS DOING!!?

WHERE'S YOUR SPIRIT!?

KA... KAIVA...

PUT A STOP TO THEIR ATTACK! WE STILL HAVE ANOTHER INNING LEFT TO COUNTER-ATTACK!

YOU GUYS ARE ONLY DOWN THREE RUNS!!

EVERY-
THING'S
GOING
TO BE
ALRIGHT!!

IT'LL
DEFINITELY
WORK OUT
SOMEHOW!!

SEN-
SEI...

IT'S HIM...

APPAR-ENTLY KAWATO'S HERE!

HE'S HERE!?

NO WAY!!

I CAN'T SEE HIM FROM HERE!!

HEY, THAT WAS KAWATO-SENSEI'S VOICE!

NO WAY!?

KA... KAWA-TO!?

CHATTER CHATTER

NIKOGAKU'S COACH, KAWATO, HAS JUST ARRIVED!

KA-WATO!

KA-WATO!

KA-WATO!

KA-WATO!

KA-WATO!

EVERY-
THING
IS GONNA
BE OKAY,
ANIYAAAAA!

GO,
ANIYA,
GOOOO!

IT'LL
BE
OKAY...

HE...
HEHE...

.....

YEAH,
JUST
LIKE
THAT!!

CRUSH
THOSE
FUCKERS!
LET'S
GO!!

YEAH!!
LET'S
GO,
BOYS!!

YEAH, YOU CAN DO IT, ANIYA!!

GOOD LUCK, ANIYA-KUUUN!!

YOU GUYS ON DEFENSE BETTER HAVE HIS BACK!!

DON'T EVER GIVE UP!!

TH... THAT MAN...

WAAAHH

WAAAHH

WITH THE ARRIVAL OF COACH KAWATO, THE NIKOGAKU PLAYERS AND SUPPORTERS HAVE SUDDENLY FOUND THEIR MORAL AND VOICES!

WHAT AN AMAZING SIGHT!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THESE ARE THE SAME FOLKS THAT WERE DEAD SILENT JUST MOMENTS AGO.

WAAAHH

NIKOGAKU IS BRIMMING WITH LIFE AGAIN!

KOHO...

HEY...

ANIYA!!

HEEEY! HIT IT OVER HERE, ASS-HOLE!!

10

HIT IT TOWARDS THIRD, BABY!!! THIRD BASE, BABY!!!

BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD, THE SCREAMS ARE GETTING LOUDER AND LOUDER!

ANIYA!!

EVEN WITH RUNNERS ON, ANIYA IS IN MOTION TO PITCH!

THE COUNT IS NO BALLS, TWO STRIKES!

NGH ...

D... DOCTOR ...

WAAAH

I HAVE SOME DAMN POWER!!

I HAVE POWER IN MY RIGHT ARM...

I'LL BE OKAY!!

NOW GOOO!!

BAT-1004/84cm/69.5DIA.

BATTER OUUUT!!

STRIIII IIIIKE!

.....
MR. CHAIRMAN, ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT ALLOWING THIS?

HE WAGER-ED ON THIS GAME!
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED WITH WHAT THAT MAN.

IS ACTUALLY PREPARED TO RESIGN FROM THE SCHOOL...

OH...
WAGER-ED?

JUST SO HE COULD GET BEHIND THE BENCH ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT THAT MAN,

WIN
単
勝
WIN
15 TUMBLING DICE
★1000
★★1000枚★★1000
00084098
00135328
00007038

1. Keichi Aniya	2. Tomoya Wakana	3. Tetsuro Yufune	4. Toru Mikoshiba	5. Kei Shinjo	6. Kiyooki Hiyama
(1) Second Year (2) 181 cm / 75 kg (3) O (4) Righty / Righty (5) Pitcher (6) Mother and Father (7) 6.0 secs (8) 123m (9) His Coach	(1) Second Year (2) 179 cm / 71 kg (3) B (4) Righty / Righty (5) Catcher (6) Mother, Father, Younger Brother (7) 6.4 secs (8) 97m (9) His Homeroom Teacher	(1) Second Year (2) 186 cm / 80 kg (3) O (4) Righty / Righty (5) First Baseman (6) Mother, Father, Older Brother (7) 6.5 secs (8) 100m (9) His Homeroom Teacher	(1) Second Year (2) 154 cm / 47 kg (3) A (4) Righty / Righty (5) Second Baseman (6) Grandmother, Father, Mother and Big Sister (7) 6.9 secs (8) 83m (9) His Coach	(1) Second Year (2) 185 cm / 91 kg (3) AB (4) Righty / Lefty (5) Third Baseman (6) Mother, Father, Younger Sister (7) 6.3 secs (8) 112m (9) His Homeroom Teacher	(1) Second Year (2) 174 cm / 65 kg (3) O (4) Righty / Righty (5) Shortstop (6) Mother, Father, Older Brother, Younger Brother (7) 6.9 secs (8) 90m (9) His Homeroom Teacher
7. Shinobu Imaoka	8. Shuta Sekikawa	9. Yuuya Okada	10. Taira Hiratsuka	11. Shoji Akaboshi	12. Taiyo Hamanaka
(1) Second Year (2) 152 cm / 45 kg (3) AB (4) Righty / Righty-Lefty (5) Left Fielder / Pitcher (6) Grandmother, Grandfather, Mother, Father, Older Brother (7) 7.3 secs (8) 76m (9) His Homeroom Teacher	(1) Second Year (2) 163 cm / 54 kg (3) A (4) Righty / Righty (5) Center Fielder (6) Mother, Older Sister, Younger Sister (7) 5.8 secs (8) 88m (9) His Homeroom Teacher	(1) Second Year (2) 170 cm / 59 kg (3) A (4) Lefty / Lefty (5) Right Fielder (6) Mother, Father, Younger Brother (7) 6.8 secs (8) 85m (9) His Homeroom Teacher	(1) Second Year (2) 175 cm / 75 kg (3) O (4) Righty / Righty (5) Third Baseman (6) Mother, Father, Three Younger Brothers (7) 7.0 secs (8) 100m (9) Kankichi Ryotsu*	(1) First Year (2) 177 cm / 72 kg (3) B (4) Lefty / Lefty (5) Right Fielder / Pitcher (6) Mother, Father (7) 5.8 secs (8) 115m (9) Nobody	(1) First Year (2) 167 cm / 52 kg (3) O (4) Righty / Righty (5) Left Fielder (6) Mother, Father (7) 7.2 secs (8) 74m (9) Tsunku**

(1) Year in School (2) Height / Weight (3) Blood-type (4) Throw / Hit (5) Position
(6) Family Members (7) Speed in a 50m Dash (8) Personal Throwing Record (9) Most Respected Person
*Protagonist of the famous Kochikame manga series
**Tsunku (つんく♂) is a prolific Japanese record producer, songwriter, and vocalist.

Vol.231

Run, Tumbling Dice! Run!

ナオ!!

BAD-ASS!!

YEAH!! WELL DONE, ANIYA!!

F... FUCK-ING AWE-SOME!!

AH... ANIYA!

!

STRIKE THREE AND HE'S OUT!!

ANIYA STRUCK OUT KONO WITH A FASTBALL HE PUT HIS WHOLE BODY INTO!

ANIYA!

ANIYA!

I... I'M FINE... NO PROB...

ANIYA!

ANIYA'S PUT A KNEE ON THE GROUND... HE MUST BE EXHAUSTED.

THE DOC TOLD ME I COULD THROW 25 PITCHES...

I CAN STILL PLAY!

AND I'VE ONLY THROW FOUR.

GUH...

H... HEY, DON'T OVERDO IT!

NOW EVERYBODY IS GONNA THINK THAT STRIKEOUT WAS THANKS TO HIM...

SH... SHIT... WHAT THE HELL IS KAWATO DOING HERE?

ANIYA,

!

THAT'S ENOUGH.

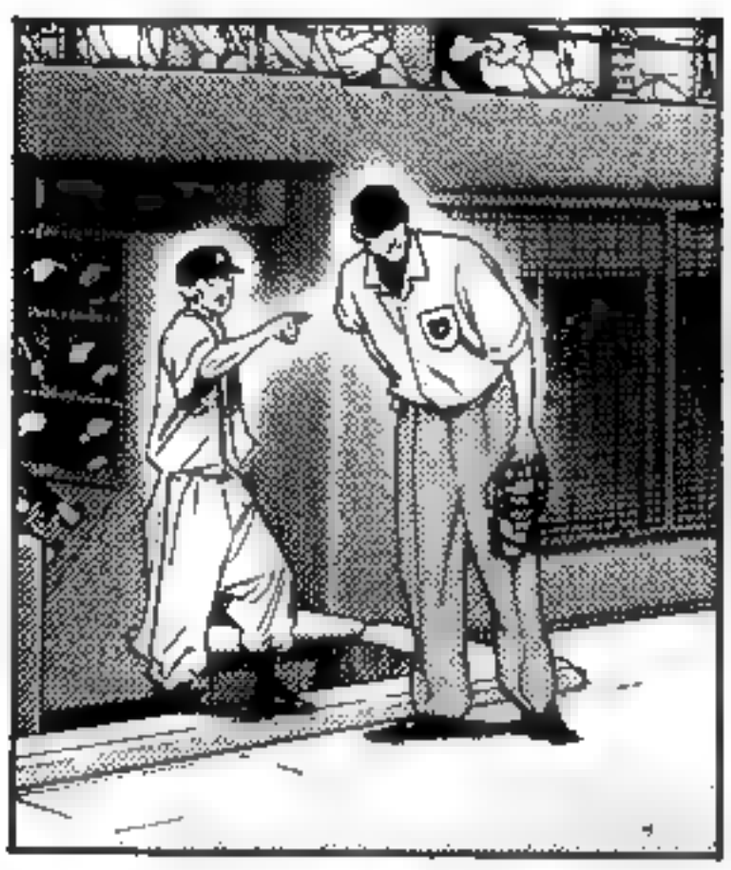
.....

HAH

HAH

YOU CAN REST NOW.
YOU CAN LEAVE THE REST UP TO US.

AL-RIGHT, FINE...
3



DESPITE BEING INJURED, ANIYA ACCOMPLISHED A WONDERFUL FEAT!

GREAT JOB!

THAT WAS AWESOME, ANIYA!

AKABOSHI IS TAKING ANIYA'S SPOT AS PITCHER. NIKOGAKU IS REVERTING TO THEIR PREVIOUS FORMATION.

YOU ROCK, ANIYA!

THE STANDS ARE GIVING HIM A STANDING OVATION!

ANIYA-KUUUN!

SENSEI ...

K... KAWATO-KUN...

YEAH, ANIYA!!

AND WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?

WEREN'T YOU BANNED!?

SPEAK-ING OF WHICH... DON'T STARTLE US LIKE THAT!!

WELL DONE!

I, UH...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR ALL THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED YOU, VICE PRINCIPAL... AND THANK YOU.

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I GOT A SPECIAL PERMISSION,

I'VE BEEN LISTENING FROM THE BEGINNING... THANK YOU FOR THIS MARVELOUS GAME!

NOT AT ALL!

I OVER-USED THE PLAYERS WITH NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.

I WASN'T A GOOD MANAGER.

BUT IT GIVES ME SOME AS WELL...

HIS PRESENCE ALONE NOT ONLY GIVES HOPE TO THE PLAYERS,

AND YET... I FEEL RELIEVED.

WE'RE STILL IN THIS HORRID SITUATION...

HE'S THE ONE THAT GIVES US OUR STRENGTH!

AKABOSHI WAS ABLE TO STRIKE OUT TWO STRAIGHT BATTERS!!

A STRIKEOUT ON THREE STRAIGHT THROWS!!

AGH!

FUCKING RIGHT!!

STRIKE THREE! BATTER OUUUUT!!

BZZZT..

HAVE GOTTEN A SECOND WIND...

NIKO-GA... BZZT..

KAWA.. BZZZ...

BZZZT... BZZ... AFTER THE TOP OF THE EIGHT...

NIKOGAKU WAS... BZZZT... OUT OF THEIR PINCH... BZZZT...

HMPH...

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE RIGHT IN THEIR ZONE!

TO THINK THAT THE APPEARANCE OF COACH KAWATO WOULD HAVE THIS MUCH OF AN EFFECT!

FUFU FU...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

FORGIVE ME, EVERY-BODY!

I'M SORRY!

NOW, IT'S TIME TO TURN THE TABLES AND WIN!!

YOU GUYS HAVE DONE GREAT WITH THE ADVERSITY YOU'VE HAD TO FACE SO FAR!!

AND WITH THAT SAID...

SEN-SEI...

IT WAS ALL THANKS TO MY TRIPLE PL...

WHO DO YOU THINK WAS THE ONE THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO STILL BE IN THIS GAME!?

PFFT...

HEY, HEY! YOU BARELY GOT HERE AND YOU'RE ALREADY TELLING US THAT BULLSHIT!?

HAHA...

!

IT'S THE RESULT OF YOUR CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELVES AND YOUR COURAGE VERSUS ADVERSITY!!

THIS IS THE RESULT OF NOT GIVING UP!

LISTEN UP! IF YOU'VE GIVEN UP ALL HOPE, THEN YOU'LL NEVER TOUCH THE BALL WITH YOUR BAT!

.....

BUT IF YOU SWING THE BAT CONFIDENTLY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HIT IT WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED!!

BECAUSE THAT COWARD IS NEVER ABLE TO TAKE A STEP FORWARD!!

NOTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR A COWARD WHO ONLY HESITATES,

THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE GAINED IN THOSE TEN MONTHS OF HARD WORK!!

YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS!!

HEHE...

SEN-SEI...

YEAAAAH!!!

LET'S GO!!

NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO TAKE THE LEAD WITH OUR NIKOGAKU SPIRIT!

WE'RE NOW IN THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH AND IT IS NIKOGAKU'S LAST CHANCE. THEY ARE CURRENTLY THREE RUNS BEHIND AS THE SECOND BATTER, IMAOKA, STEPS UP TO THE PLATE.

THE NIKOGAKU PLAYERS ARE SCREAMING AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS FROM THE BENCH!

GET A HIT!!

SECOND BATTER, SECOND BASEMAN, IMAOKA-KUN.

HIT IT!!

GET YOUR ASS ON BASE!!

IMAO-KAAAA! GET ON BASE!!

TUMBLING DICE!!

SHADDAP. THE RACE IS ABOUT THE BEGIN.

WHAT RACE?

KAWATO'S CHANGED THE WHOLE DYNAMIC...

AMAZING...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOSHI-SAN?

YOU DON'T NEED TO LISTEN TO THE GAME OVER THE RADIO WHEN YOU CAN WATCH IT WITH YOUR OWN TWO EYES!

I'VE GOT A FEELING

THAT SOMETHING AMAZING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

.....

AKA-BOSHI!!!

FUCK!!

AKA-BOSHI!! WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!!

AFTER A GROUNDER TO SHORTSTOP, IMAOKA IS OUT AT FIRST.

OUT!!

YOU'RE GREAT AT HITTING THE BALL, SO KEEP COOL!

ALRIGHT, AKABOSHI! JUST RELAX AND DO WHAT YOU USUALLY DO!

ONE OUT!

AHHHH!

IF YOU HADN'T COME...

TO BE HONEST, I HAD COMPLETELY GIVEN UP EARLIER...

HMM? WHAT'S UP?

SENSEI.

.....

AS LONG AS MY PRESENCE OR MY WORDS CAN GIVE YOU STRENGTH, THEN I'LL BE WITH YOU.

!

AND I'LL SAY EVERYTHING THAT'S NEEDED TO CHEER YOU ON!

.....

AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DOING YOUR BEST.

BUT YOU'RE ALL USING YOUR OWN STRENGTH TO MOVE FORWARD.

YEAAAH!!

AKABOSHI HIT IT BETWEEN THE THIRD BASEMAN AND SHORTSTOP!

AND THAT'S THE FIRST RUNNER ON BASE FOR NIKOGAKU!

THAT'S AKABOSHI'S SECOND HIT OF THE DAY!

IT'S GOING STRAIGHT TO LEFT FIELD!!

THE FOURTH BATTER, HIRATSUKA, HAS BEEN STRUCK OUT FOUR TIMES TODAY!

A LESS THAN MEMORABLE GAME FOR HIM AT THE PLATE!

THERE ARE NOW TWO OUTS!

YEAH!!!! WATCH THIS!!

NEXT UP IS HIRA... ERRM... HIRATSUKA.

YEAH!!!!

STRIKE THREE, BATTER OUT!!

ARE YOU GIVING UP?

TWO OUTS ...

GOOD.

OF COURSE NOT!!

FUCK NO!! THIS IS WHEN WE'RE GONNA GET SERIOUS!!

THE PLAYERS ARE MOVING FORWARD BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN STRENGTH,

BUT THEY WERE ONLY ABLE TO DO IT THANKS TO YOU.

THANK YOU, SENSEI...

MEOW!!!

IT'LL BE OKAY...

HE HIT IT ABOVE THE SHORT-STOP

NIKOGAKU WON'T GIVE UP...

AND INTO LEFT FIELD!!

BASES LOADED!!

WITH THOSE THREE BIG HITS, NIKOGAKU IS RIGHT BACK IN THE GAME!!

NIKOGAKU HAS LOADED THE BASES AGAIN!!

SEVENTH BATTER, CATCHER MIKOSHIBA-KUN.

TWO OUTS, BASES LOADED IN THE BOTTOM OF THE NINTH... NIKOGAKU NEEDS TO SCORE HERE OR IT'S GAME OVER!

WITH A THREE RUN DEFICIT, EVERYTHING IS COMING DOWN ON THE NEXT BATTER'S SHOULDERS.

CATCHER, MIKOSHIBA-KUN.

WE'RE IN THE FINAL INNING WITH TWO OUTS, AND NIKOGAKU'S CAPTAIN, MIKOSHIBA, IS UP AT BAT!!

MIKO-SHIBA!!

MIKO-SHIBA!!

MIKO-SHIBA!!

MIKO-SHIBA!!

MIKO-SHIBA-KUUUN!!

MIKO-SHIBA!!

WILL NIKOGAKU BE ABLE TO GET SOME RUNNERS HOME OR WILL THE GAME END HERE!? YOU CAN FEEL THE TENSION IN THE AIR!!

NIKOGAKU PERSEVERES AS THEY TRY TO LIGHT THE FLAME OF VICTORY!

YOU CAN DO IT!!

MIKO-SHIBA!! CALM DOWN!!

PLAY BALL!!

ENEOS

KIRIN

4

Vol.232

Baseball Is Lightning Through a Grass Forest

IT'S THE NINTH INNING... BASES LOADED... AND WE'RE DOWN THREE RUNS...

UH... LET'S SEE... TOWARDS FIRST BASE...

IF I GET A HIT, WE CAN SCORE A RUN...

THERE ARE TWO OUTS...

I'M THE LAST BATTER...

I'VE GOTTA CLEAR MY MIND...

WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING ABOUT!? I'M LOSING FOCUS!!

ドゥ...

ドゥ...

ドゥ...

ドゥ...

ドゥ...

THAT'S THE FOCAL PART.

I DON'T WANNA LOSE...

2

3

NO...

A HIT!!

I WANT TO GET A HIT!

BASES ARE LOADED...

TOSHIBA

AND I'M FACING OFF AGAINST ENATSU...

IT'LL BE OKAY!!

I'VE GOT TO HIT IT!

IT'S A BALL STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE!

IT WAS STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE!

HIT IT!!

MIKOSHIBA DIDN'T SWING AT THE BALL!

STRIKE!!

MIKO-SHIBA...

DON'T BE SO TENSE, MIKO-SHIBA!!

MIKOSHIBA DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE HIT TODAY.

AHAHA... NIKOGAKU'S DONE FOR.

OH, SHUT UP... MIKOSHIBA HAS A GREAT EYE TO DISTINGUISH BALLS AND STRIKES!

AND HIS AVERAGE PLUMMETS WHEN HE HAS RUNNERS N SCORING POSITION.

HE DOESN'T GET MANY DOUBLES OR TRIPLES EITHER.

HIS BATTING AVERAGE IS BELOW .280...

HAH. SO HE MIGHT GET WALKED AND DEPEND ON THE NEXT BATTER... HAMANAKA, RIGHT?

GUH...

AHHH! MIKOSHIBA SWUNG AND MISSED THIS TIME!

MIKOSHIBA'S DOWN AN 0-2 COUNT! HE'S IN A TIGHT SPOT!

CRAP!!

HAH

HAH

HAH...

STRIKE!!

.....

UUU...

AND KEEP YOUR COOL!!

MIKO-SHIBA!! WATCH THE BALL CARE-FULLY!!

PLEASE...

CHATTER CHATTER

AHHH... MIKO-SHIBA-KUN...

SUDDENLY, THE STADIUM'S GONE SILENT.

WILL THE NEXT PITCH BE THE LAST?

HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD IF HE DOESN'T WIN.

THIS STUPID HORSE ALSO KNOWS THAT

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO, TUMBLING DICE!

THE HORSES ARE AT THE LINE . AND THEY'RE OFF!

YOSHI-SAN!

WAAAAH

HE NEEDS TO RUN TO SURVIVE!

KONAMI KONAMI

アサヒビール

4

RUNNING AND BELIEVING IN HIMSELF!!

WAS OUR OWN STRENGTH...

WHAT BROUGHT US BACK TO OUR FEET...

FUUU...

ぎゅ！

AND THAT'S WHY WE'VE WORKED SO HARD!!

PLAY BALL!!

SENSEI, TO BE HONEST, I HAD LOST ALL HOPE BEFORE YOU CAME.

BUT NOW, WE HAVE ANOTHER GREAT-SCORING OPPORTUNITY...

11

WE'RE ALLOWED TO FEEL PRIDE AGAIN, RIGHT!?

YOU-KNOW, SENSEI...

TAKI

WELL, ONLY SOMETIMES...

THAT OUR TEAM IS INVINCIBLE AND THAT WE'LL GO TO THE KOSHIEN...

FROM TIME TO TIME, I TELL MYSELF...

M

KUNAMI

BUT IT'LL BE OKAY...

TOSHIBA
I KNOW THAT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN MANY HITS SO FAR...

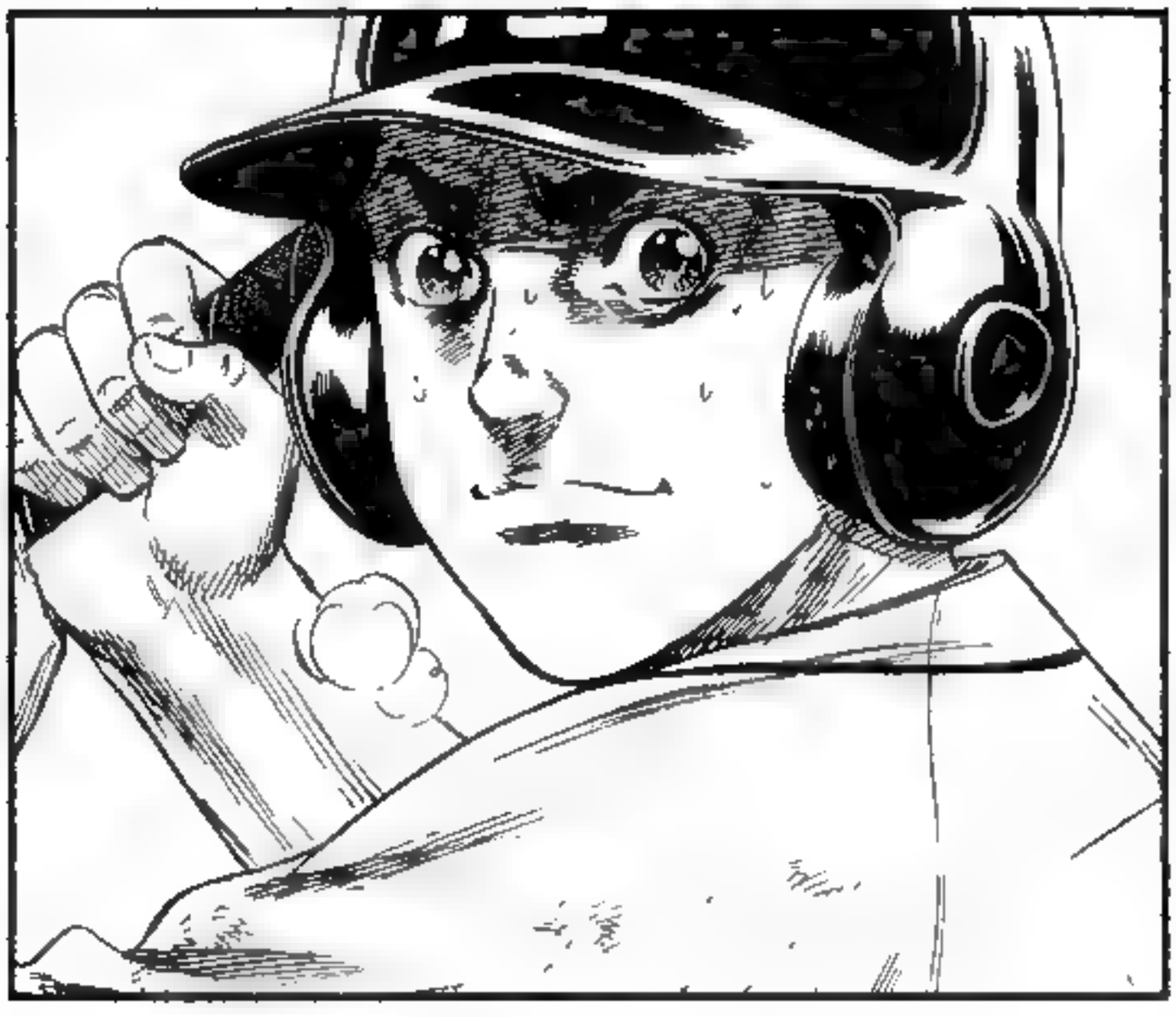
BECAUSE THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING FOR US!!
THE INVINCIBLE NIKOGAKU BATTERS CAN GET A DECISIVE HIT IN A TIME LIKE THIS

NOTHING WILL END TODAY!!

THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO LET IT END HERE!!

HE...
HE HIT
IIIIIIIT!!

IT'S
A GRAND
SLAM TO PUT
NIKOGAKU
INTO THE
LEAD!!



Vol.233 Let's Go, Nikogaku!

YEAAAAAH!!!!

OH MY GOODNESS!! IT'S MIKOSHIBA'S FIRST EVER HOMERUN...

AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S A GRAND SLAM!! NIKOGAKU FLIPPED THE SCRIPT ON THEIR LAST SCORING OPPORTUNITY AND THEY'RE NOW IN THE LEAD!!

MIKO-SHIBA-KUUUN!!

MIKO-SHIBA!!

A HOME-RUN?

I... ME?

YOU'RE THE SHIT, MIKO-SHIBA!!

MIKO-SHIBA!
MIKO-SHIBA!
MIKO-SHIBA!
MIKO-SHIBA!
MIKO-SHIBA!
MIKO-SHIBA!
MIKO-SHIBA!
MIKO-SHIBA!
I'M SO HAPPY...
...!?
I'M SO HAPPY THAT I BEGAN PLAYING BASEBALL...

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER VERY WELL WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT...

I SAW THE BALL BOUNCE UP FROM THE STANDS IN LEFT FIELD... AND THAT WILL BE SOMETHING I'LL REMEMBER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

BUT THE FEELING OF HITTING THE BALL NEVER LEFT MY HANDS...

ALL THE WHILE I WAS RUNNING TOWARDS HOME PLATE...

I WAS SO HAPPY THAT I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE KOSHIEN, THE FUTURE OF OUR TEAM AND EVERYTHING...

YEAH, IT WAS ALL HAPPENING LIKE IT WAS A DREAM...

MIKO-SHIBA!

MIKO-SHIBA!

MIKO-SHIBA!

I WAS HAPPY... SO VERY HAPPY...

11

EVEN THOUGH I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT PITCHES I CALLED FOR HIM...

I REMEMBER THAT RIGHT AFTER THAT,,

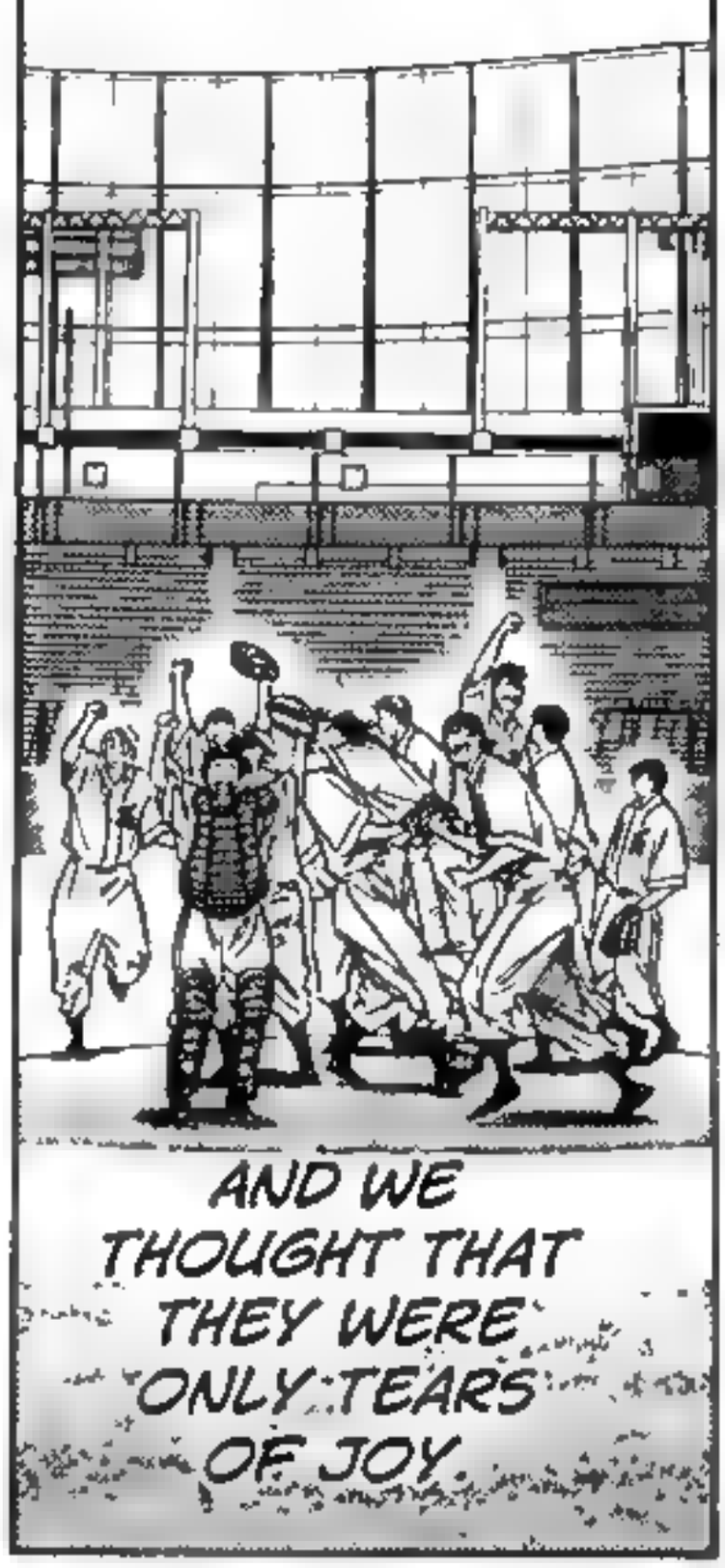
HAMANAKA STRUCK OUT IN THREE STRAIGHT PITCHES...

AND THAT AKABOSHI GOT THE NEXT THREE BATTERS OUT IN THE TOP OF THE NINTH...

NIKOGAKU WAS THE BEST.

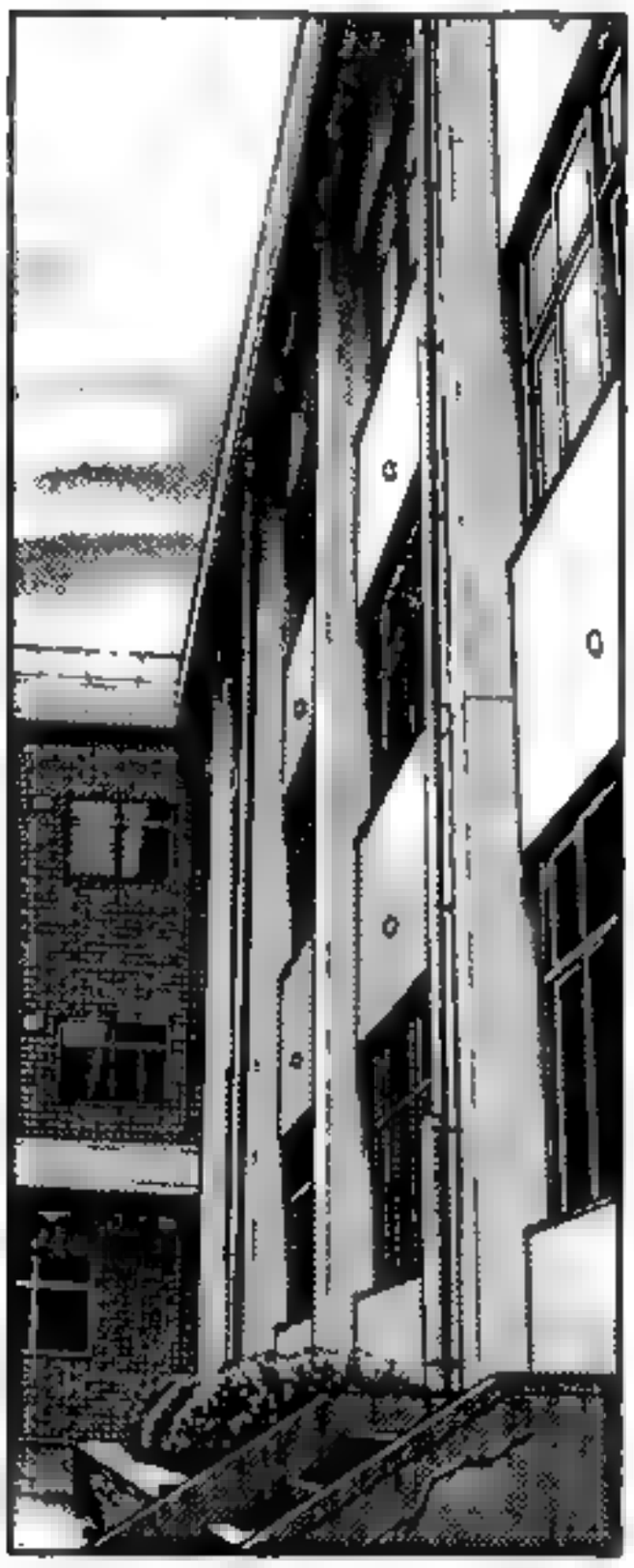
I REMEMBER THE SCREAMS OF JOY WE HAD WHEN WE JUMPED INTO EACH OTHER'S ARMS, LIKE WE HAD JUST WON A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME...

AT THAT VERY MOMENT...


AND WE THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE ONLY TEARS OF JOY.

KONAM
ピードライ
Asahi

SENSEI, I SAW THAT YOU HAD TEARS IN YOUR EYES...



BUT I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE BEHIND THEM...

WH... WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

NOBODY AGREED WITH HIM LEAVING THE SCHOOL!

ON THAT DAY, NOBODY LISTENED TO A THING OUR TEACHER HAD TO SAY TO US...

TIME 145 S B O JUDGE

H 20100 R

一 二 三 四 五 六 七

H 14520 2

THE FOLLOWING DAY, WE LOST OUR FIRST ORGANIZED GAME BY THE MERCY RULE.

IT WASN'T BECAUSE AKABOSHI TWISTED HIS ANKLE IN THE FIRST INNING AND WE HAD NO OTHER PITCHER AVAILABLE EITHER.

IT WASN'T BECAUSE ANIYA COULDN'T PLAY BECAUSE OF HIS INJURIES...

WITHOUT SENSEI, AFTER ALL.

TOSHIBA KIRIN ENEOS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

BUT WE ALL KNEW...

THAT NIKOGAKU JUST WASN'T NIKOGAKU...

ガシャ

WE THOUGHT THAT OUR DREAMS OF GETTING TO THE KOSHIEN WERE OVER...
WE WERE REALLY READY TO GIVE UP...
BECAUSE WE KNEW WE'D BE BANNED FROM THE TOURNAMENT FOR A YEAR...
THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE COMMITTEE HELD AN EMERGENCY MEETING.

THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE VOTED AGAINST OUR BANISHMENT FROM THE TOURNAMENT.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT, SENSEI!?

BUT THEN...

BUT...

I THINK EVERYONE FROM THE COMMITTEE SAW OUR GAME AND THEY WERE MOVED BY US...

AND ENCOURAGED US TO CONTINUE.

YES, WE CAN STILL PLAY BASEBALL!!

AND THEY'RE EVEN LETTING YOU COME BACK, SENSEI!!

BUT... WHY AREN'T YOU HERE?

WE CAN PLAY BASEBALL TOGETHER IN THE FALL ONCE AGAIN!

JUST TWO MONTHS!!

YOUR SUSPENSION WILL ONLY LAST TWO MONTHS!!

COME BACK!!

WE WANT TO WORK HARD AND GO TO THE KOSHIEN... TOGETHER WITH YOU!!

PLEASE COME BACK, SENSEI!!

平塚

Medication
Tadashi Fujimura
Notes
Three times per day for
fourteen days after eating

A HUNDRED!! THAT'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT!?

OUR CLUB HAD CLOSE TO A HUNDRED NEW APPLICATIONS THIS YEAR, WHEN WE WERE ONLY TWELVE LAST YEAR!!

YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT,

BUT SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE HAPPENED, SENSEI!

THERE'S EVEN BEEN SOME PRO SCOUTS FROM TIME TO TIME!!

THEY MOSTLY COME TO INTERVIEW YANIYA, THOUGH.

THERE'S ALSO MORE AND MORE REPORTERS, TOO!!

IT SEEMS WE'RE GETTING A NEW COACH TODAY.

APPARENTLY IT'S A TEACHER THAT JUST GOT HIRED...

Aniya gate

Akaboshi gate

AND FINALLY...

KAWAKAMI IS PRETTY AMAZING, ISN'T HE?

OH YEAH, DID YOU WATCH SASAZAKI'S GAME ON TV?

I THINK THAT THIS SUMMER, HIS ARM WILL BE EVEN STRONGER AND BETTER THAN LAST YEAR!!

HE'S APPARENTLY THE FIRST PITCHER TO EVER ACCOMPLISH A NO HITTER IN THE SPRING FINALS.

BUT WE ALL KNOW...

THAT NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS, HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPLACE YOU, SENSEI!...

御子柴

WE DON'T KNOW HOW HE IS,

BUT WE'RE GOING TO BE HEADED TO THE KOSHIEN WITH HIM THIS SUMMER.

BUT WE CAN'T

KEEP THINKING WITH REGRETS

...

I GUESS THIS REALLY IS GOODBYE THEN, SENSEI...

IT'S WITH OUR OWN STRENGTH THAT WE'LL MOVE FORWARD.

御子柴

関川

THANK YOU SO MUCH, SENSEI!

IT'LL BE OKAY!

YEAH, EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY FOR US!

Sign: 84th Edition of the Tokyo National Highschool Baseball Tournament

Nikogaku

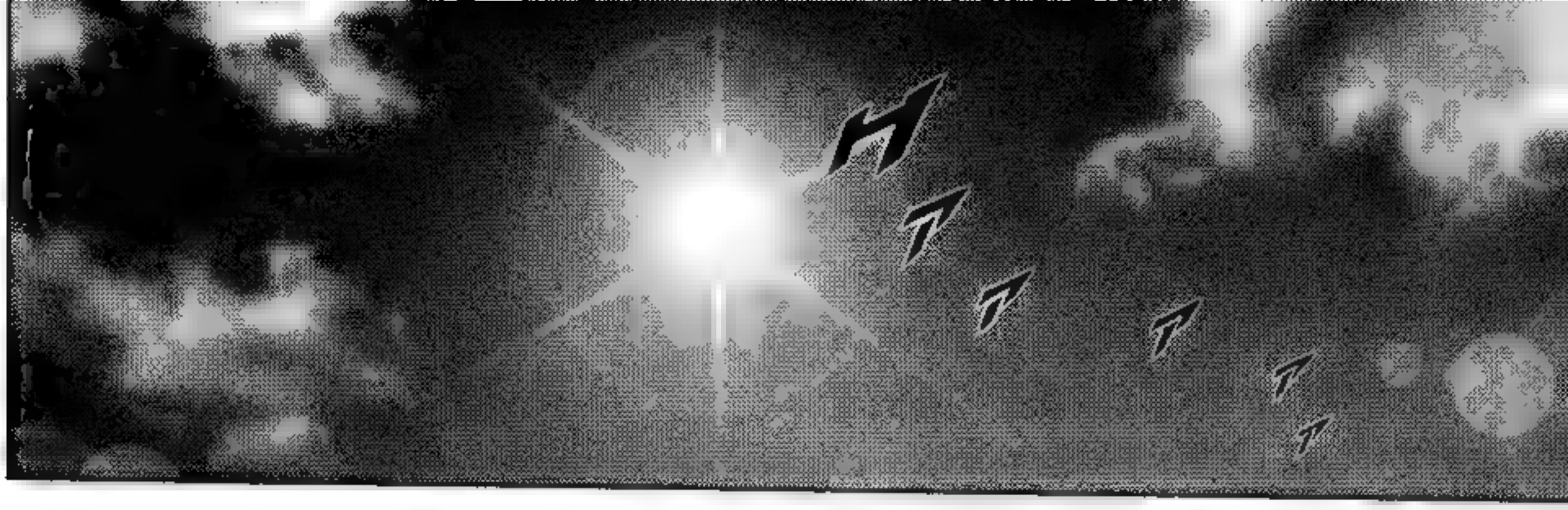
ストレート

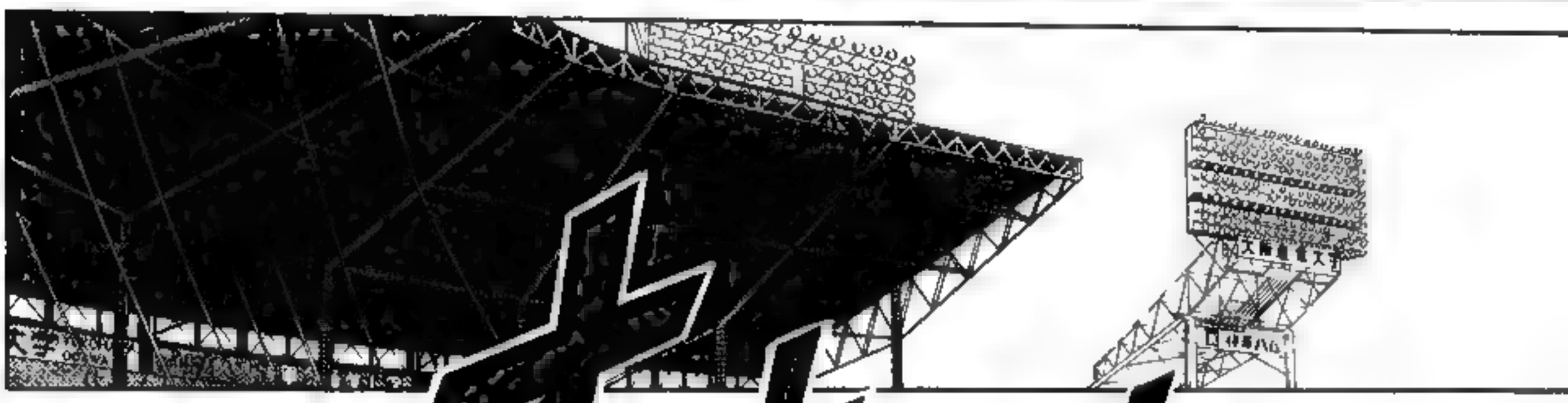
155km

ズバン打線

ズバン打線

ズバン打線





ALRIGHT BOYS, I WANNA HEAR YOU SCREAM!!
HEY!! THAT'S MY JOB!!
SHADDAP!

NOW RAISE YOUR VOICES FROM YOUR GUTS!!
WHAA!? MISTER PRINCI-PAL!?

YEAH, RIGHT!

NEW COACH?

SHIT...

OH MY, IS HE EVER!

YOU KNOW, THAT NEW COACH IS REALLY SOME-THING.

PFFT...

IT'S WITH YOUR CON-FIDENCE IN YOURSELVES AND YOUR COURAGE THAT YOU CAN MOVE FORWARD!

LISTEN UP, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

YOU'VE ALL BECOME SO MUCH STRONGER THAN BEFORE!

EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY!!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT SOUND?

?

!?

EVERY-THING'LL BE OKAY, GOT IT!?

RIIIIP

SENSEI ...

HE ACTUALLY LEFT THE SCHOOL AND WENT THROUGH THE APPLICATION PROCESS...

APPARENTLY, HE DIDN'T THINK A TWO MONTH SUSPENSION WAS ENOUGH.

.....

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!!

オオオ!!

THEY'RE THE ONES WHO DEFEATED SASAZAKI IN THE REGIONAL FINALS!

THE PLAYERS FROM FUTAGO-TAMAGAWA ARE COMING ON THE FIELD!

THIS IS THEIR FIRST PARTICIPATION IN THE KOSHIEN.

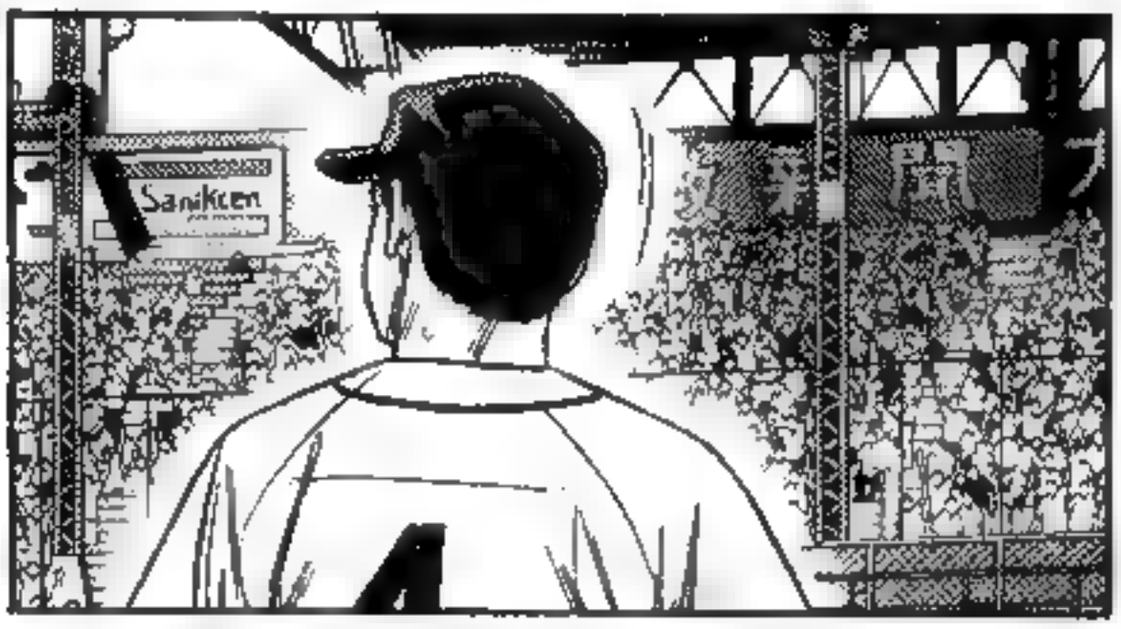
AND YOU CAN HEAR THE APPLAUSE THEY'RE GETTING FROM THE CROWD!

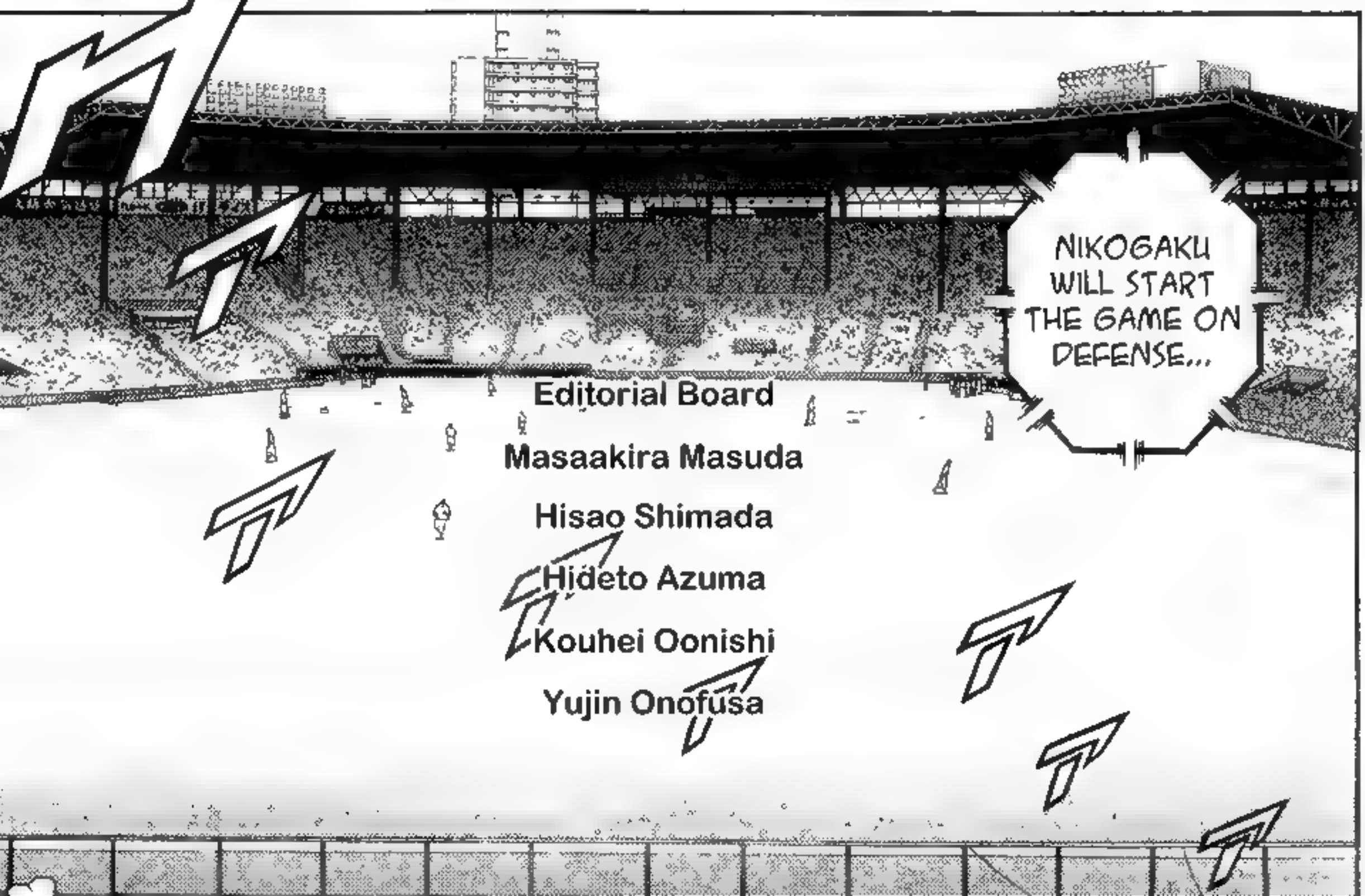
WELCOME, FUTAGOTA-MAGAWA!

Stadium Hanshin Koshien Baseball Stadium

阪神甲子園球場

THANK YOU FOR HAVING US!!





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ROOKIES

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